



PRESCHOOL  
**Explore**  
the Bible®



THE FIRST BOOK OF MOSES  
COMMONLY CALLED  
**GENESIS**

ing God created the heaven  
n was without form, and void;  
as upon the face of the deep,  
of God moved upon the face of  
said, Let there be light: and  
saw the light, that it was good:  
ded the light from the darkness,  
ed Night. And the evening and  
ere the first day.  
God said, Let there be a firmament  
st of the waters,  
ign the waters,  
God made the firmament, and divid  
ers which were under the firmam  
e waters which were above the  
nd it was so.  
nd God called the firmament  
vening and the morning.

And God said, Let  
ven be gathered  
d let the dry land ap  
10 And God called  
e gathering together  
seas: and God saw  
11 And God said,  
grass, the herb  
yielding fruit a  
itself, upon the  
12 And the  
herb yielding  
yielding fruit,  
kind: and God  
13 And the ev  
third day.  
14 And God said,  
firmament of the heaven  
the night, and let their  
seasons, and for days,  
15 And let them  
of the ocean, give  
it was so.



Leader Guide > Fall 2017  
Steve Gaines, General Editor

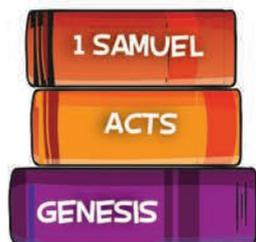
GENESIS, ACTS, 1 SAMUEL

LifeWay | **Preschool**

# BIBLICAL OVERVIEW 2017-2018

This year kids and preschoolers will be studying the following books as they explore the Bible.

**FALL 2017**



**WINTER 2017-18**



**SPRING 2018**



**SUMMER 2018**

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE PRESCHOOL LEADER GUIDE



- |                                                                                            |                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6</b> <b>GOD'S BEAUTIFUL CREATION</b><br>Session 1<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 3 | <b>54</b> <b>EVERYONE CAN HELP</b><br>Session 7<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 15      |
| <b>14</b> <b>OBEY GOD</b><br>Session 2<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 10               | <b>62</b> <b>TELL THE MESSAGE</b><br>Session 8<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 22       |
| <b>22</b> <b>GOD CARES</b><br>Session 3<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 17              | <b>70</b> <b>LOVE JESUS</b><br>Session 9<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 29             |
| <b>30</b> <b>GOD'S PLAN</b><br>Session 4<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 24             | <b>78</b> <b>GOD HEARS</b><br>Session 10<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 5              |
| <b>38</b> <b>THE FIRST CHURCH</b><br>Session 5<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 1         | <b>86</b> <b>A KING FOR THE PEOPLE</b><br>Session 11<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 12 |
| <b>46</b> <b>JESUS CAME TO HELP</b><br>Session 6<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 8       | <b>94</b> <b>GOD'S CHOICE</b><br>Session 12<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 19          |
|                                                                                            | <b>102</b> <b>FRIENDS LOVE</b><br>Session 13<br>SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 26         |

For free online training on how to lead a group, visit  
[ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).



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We believe that the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay's doctrinal guideline, please visit [lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline](http://lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline).

The Bible stories printed in this product are based on Scripture and are written in words and language young preschoolers can understand.

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# GET TO KNOW YOUR LEADER GUIDE

The weekly session plan is your tool for leading great Bible explorations.

## TERMS TO KNOW

- **BIBLE STORY PASSAGE**  
THE FOCAL SCRIPTURE PASSAGE FOR ALL PRESCHOOLERS.
- **TEXT TRUTH**  
THE MAIN POINT FROM THE BIBLE STORY PASSAGE TO COMMUNICATE TO CHILDREN.
- **CHRIST IN CONTEXT**  
THE MESSAGE OF JESUS IN A PARTICULAR BIBLE BOOK.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE LEADER GUIDE

- **EMPHASIS ON ...**
- USING THE BIBLE
- DEVELOPING BIBLE SKILLS
- CONNECTING BIBLE CONTENT TO JESUS
- APPLYING BIBLE CONTENT TO CHILDREN'S LIVES
- MODELING BIBLE CONVERSATION AND PRAYER
- **THROUGH ...**
- LARGE GROUP EXPERIENCES
- SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
- HANDS-ON EXPLORATIONS

### BACKGROUND STUDY FOR TEACHERS

**SESSION FOCUS**  
God made everything.

**BIBLE VERSE**  
Genesis 1:1-2

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT**  
God is the Creator of all things. He made the world and everything in it. He made the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, and all the animals and plants. He made the people, too. He made the world a good place for us to live in.

**ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES**  
Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session.

### QUICK OVERVIEW AND EARLY ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

**OVERVIEW**

**SESSION FOCUS**  
God made everything.

**BIBLE VERSE**  
Genesis 1:1-2

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT**  
God is the Creator of all things. He made the world and everything in it. He made the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, and all the animals and plants. He made the people, too. He made the world a good place for us to live in.

**ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES**  
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### STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURES FOR LARGE GROUP EXPERIENCES

**BIBLE STORY**

**SESSION FOCUS**  
God made everything.

**BIBLE VERSE**  
Genesis 1:1-2

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT**  
God is the Creator of all things. He made the world and everything in it. He made the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, and all the animals and plants. He made the people, too. He made the world a good place for us to live in.

**ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES**  
Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session.

**CHECK OUT LEADER TIPS!**  
• **HOW CHILDREN LEARN**  
• **TIMESAVER TIPS**  
• **ORGANIZATIONAL IDEAS**  
• **PREP STEPS**  
• **GENTLE REMINDERS**

**EXPLORATION STATIONS**

**INTEND TO CAMP**  
Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session.

**PEEL AND HUISE**  
Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session.

**MAKE A CREATION QUAT**  
Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session.

### MORE BIBLE EXPLORATIONS FOR THE NEXT HOUR

### FUN BIBLE-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOCUS ON HANDS-ON BIBLE DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

**NEXT HOUR**

**SESSION FOCUS**  
God made everything.

**BIBLE VERSE**  
Genesis 1:1-2

**CHRIST IN CONTEXT**  
God is the Creator of all things. He made the world and everything in it. He made the sun, the moon, the stars, the earth, and all the animals and plants. He made the people, too. He made the world a good place for us to live in.

**ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES**  
Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session. Use the background study to prepare the children for the session.

SEE PAGE 111 FOR DESCRIPTIONS OF RELATED PRESCHOOL RESOURCES TO ENHANCE TEACHING

# TEACHING TIPS

## PREPARE FOR TEACHING

- 1 Review the teaching plan. Practice using Bible-related conversation. Pray for the children and their families.
- 2 Gather teaching tools and resources for Bible explorations. NOTE: Digital versions of items identified as “Enhanced CD” are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle.
- 3 Arrive early to set out resources and prepare the environment. Arrange small-group activities (Exploration Stations) around the room so children can move and explore at their own pace.

## FOCUS ON BIBLE EXPLORATION

- Use the Bible. Let preschoolers see, touch, and turn Bible pages.
- Talk about the Bible.
- Say Bible words and phrases during the entire session.
- Sing about the Bible and Bible truths.
- Encourage children to participate in Bible exploration activities according to their skills, abilities, and interests.

## SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### • ARRIVAL-5 MINUTES

Greet children individually and welcome them to church. Interest each child in an arrival activity or resource.

### • EXPLORATIONS-45-60 MINUTES

Engage preschoolers in small group activities that help them explore the Bible and its truths. Provide at least three exploration stations to offer choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

### • CIRCLE TIME-2-5 MINUTES (YOUNGER CHILDREN) OR 10-15 MINUTES (OLDER CHILDREN)

Gather children for a large-group experience. Play games, sing, and introduce the Bible story. Hear and recall the Bible story. Practice Bible skills. Pray.

### • NEXT HOUR-60 MINUTES

Continue activities from the first hour or try something different. Choose two or three new activities. (See Next Hour sessions on Enhanced CD.)

## DON'T FORGET!

Label children's belongings.

Post an allergy sign to inform parents of food, animals, or nature items in use.

Keep the classroom door closed for the safety of children.

Focus on the children and your Bible-teaching goals.

# AT-A-GLANCE

SESSION	SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF	SESSION TITLE	TEXT TRUTH
<b>1</b>	Sept. 3	God's Beautiful Creation	God made everything.
<b>2</b>	Sept. 10	Obey God	God told the first people to obey Him.
<b>3</b>	Sept. 17	God Cares	God loves and cares for people.
<b>4</b>	Sept. 24	God's Plan	God told Abram His plan.
<b>5</b>	Oct. 1	The First Church	People met together to learn about Jesus.
<b>6</b>	Oct. 8	Jesus Came to Help	God sent Jesus to help people.
<b>7</b>	Oct. 15	Everyone Can Help	God wants people at church to help.
<b>8</b>	Oct. 22	Tell the Message	Be ready to tell people about Jesus.
<b>9</b>	Oct. 29	Love Jesus	Jesus wants people to know and love Him.
<b>10</b>	Nov. 5	God Hears	God hears and answers prayer.
<b>11</b>	Nov. 12	A King for the People	God chose leaders to help His people.
<b>12</b>	Nov. 19	God's Choice	God chose David to be king.
<b>13</b>	Nov. 26	Friends Love	Friends love and help one another.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE: PRESCHOOL FALL 2017

	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE VERSE
	God's World (based on Genesis 1:1–2:2)	Genesis 1:1
	Instructions for Adam and Eve (based on Genesis 2:15-17; 3)	Deuteronomy 11:1
	God Took Care of Noah (based on Genesis 6:9–8:22; 9:12-17)	Genesis 9:16
	A New Home for Abram (based on Genesis 11:27-31; 12:1-9)	Genesis 12:2
	The First Church (based on Acts 2:41-47)	Acts 2:36
	Peter Talked About Jesus (based on Acts 3:1-26)	Acts 3:26
	Helpers in the Church (based on Acts 6:1-7)	Galatians 6:10
	Philip Told About Jesus (based on Acts 8:26-35)	2 Timothy 4:2
	Saul Learned About Jesus (based on Acts 9:1-20)	Romans 1:16
	Hannah Prayed for a Son (based on 1 Samuel 1:1-20; 2:1-2)	1 John 5:14
	Saul Became King (based on 1 Samuel 9:1–10:25)	1 Samuel 12:24
	An Important Trip for Samuel (based on 1 Samuel 16:1-23)	1 Samuel 16:7b
	Jonathan Helped David (based on 1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7; 20:1-42)	Proverbs 17:17



Session

1



# GOD'S BEAUTIFUL CREATION

## Genesis 1:1–2:2

*Genesis* is defined as the beginning, or origin, of something. The title of this book reminds us that the Bible logically opens in the beginning. The very first words of *Genesis* illuminate for us the central focus of all of creation—God Himself. In the beginning God created .... God is not just the central focus of this beginning study, but is THE focus of all of Scripture. This quarter preschoolers and kids will study a variety of ways in which God revealed Himself to people—beginning with creation.

Genesis 1 gives a detailed narrative account of the things God created. God's creation was logical and followed a specific order. Nothing was created until what would be needed to sustain that creation had already been placed here. God's creation was immediate and precise. God's creation was only from His spoken word. The theological term used is *ex nihilo* which means "from nothing." God created by speaking words, and Scripture tells us that as His words were uttered, it was so. God created light and dark, then created the heavens to separate water on the earth from that in the sky. Next, God created the dry land of the earth where plants and trees would grow. To provide for seasons and light, the sun, moon, and stars were created. Next, God filled the seas with sea creatures, and the land with land animals, culminating in the creation of mankind—created in His image.

Genesis 2 opens by sharing the greatness of God's creation and that what He created was very good. This chapter gives a further look into the lives of the people God created. God planted a garden in which the man and woman were to work the land. The couple enjoyed close communion with God. God gave them one command—do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Preschoolers will hear that God made everything. God made every plant, animal, and person, and everything He made was good. Kids will discover God is the author of and ruler over all creation. As you share these truths this week, focus on the greatness of God's creation.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God made everything.

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 1:1–2:2

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 1:1

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Touch, hold, and turn pages of the Bible.
- Hear names of some of the books in the Bible.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

▶ **Trace letters to write the words *Genesis* and *Bible*.**

*Tools: Bible, Genesis Tracing Guide (Enhanced CD), crayons or colored pencils*

▶ **Make a sticker picture featuring animals, plants, people.**

*Tools: Bible, construction paper, colorful nature stickers, washable markers or crayons*

▶ **Sort daytime and nighttime pictures.**

*Tools: Bible with ribbon placed at Genesis 1, picture cutouts of daytime and nighttime activities, yellow paper and black paper*



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Genesis 1-2 reveals that God created everything. God’s creation was very good and God had a plan for His creation.
- The Book of Genesis goes on to show that the people God created chose to reject His plan and sin entered the world. God’s plan for creation included a plan to rescue His people from sin.
- In the Book of Exodus, God provided a plan to rescue His enslaved people, and He shared that plan with Moses. God revealed His covenant name, “I AM WHO I AM.” God is both Creator and Deliverer.
- In creation, God provided everything people would need to live fruitful, productive, God-honoring lives. Likewise, God provided all that Moses needed in order to confront Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week’s devotional page to give to families.

- ▶ After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations.

## TEXT TRUTH

God made everything.

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 1:1

## LEADER TIP!

Prepare to tell the Bible story in your own words. Shorten the story as necessary to match the attention span of your group of preschoolers.

## LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

# GOD'S WORLD

## Genesis 1:1–2:2

*Before God made the world, there was nothing except God. Then God decided to make the world.*

*One, two, three, four, five, six. Six days to create the world. That's all the time it took for God to do it. God created everything you can see and even the things you cannot see.*

*First God made the heavens and the earth. There was no light, only darkness everywhere. God said, "Let there be light." Suddenly there was light! Then God made daytime and nighttime.*

*After that, God decided to create water and sky. God told all the water to run into one place, and that is what happened. God called the waters oceans. Then God made the dry ground appear and called it land.*

*Next God made plants for His world. He made plants with seed. He created beautiful flowers and tall trees. Some trees had fruit. Colors everywhere!*

*God made two great lights—the bright sun and the shining moon. Then God made the twinkling stars. All of this was good!*

*What a world! It was good, but God decided to make more! God made animals—so many kinds! God made every moving creature on earth.*

*Finally, God made a man, then He made a woman. God told the people to live in His world and take care of it.*

*God made a perfect world. He said, "It is very good."*

*One, two, three, four, five, six. Six days God worked. Then on day seven, God rested!*

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1*

Paraphrase:

*In the beginning, God created the world. Genesis 1:1*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- Walk around the room and invite preschoolers to complete their activities and join you in the Circle Time area.
- When children are seated, ask them to play a game. Tell the children to stand up, turn around, hop twice, wave to a friend, clap their hands, then sit down.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Remark: “Thank you for following directions. That was fun! God made you to move, didn’t He? God made people, and He made other things. Can someone tell me something God made?” After children respond, open the Bible to Genesis 1.
- Tell the Bible story. Show children the Story Picture.
- Lead preschoolers to name uses for the water God made. Sing a song about the water, land, and animals. To the tune “God Is So Good,” sing: “God made the water, God made the land, God made the animals, He’s so good to us.”
- Ask each preschooler to name his favorite animal. If the animal makes a sound, ask the child to mimic it. Thank God for ears to hear the animals.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles to the children. (If preschoolers brought Bibles, direct them to get their Bibles at this time.)
- Give every child a card with the word *Genesis* printed on it. Say: “The very first book in the Bible is Genesis. Let’s look for that book in your Bible.”
- Ask teachers in the circle to help children turn to the Book of Genesis. Direct children to find Genesis 1:1. Then repeat the Bible verse together.

### PRAY

- Lead the group in thanking God for a beautiful world.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bibles
- cards with the word *Genesis* printed on them (1 card for each child)

### PACK ITEM

- 1 Story Picture: God’s World

## TEXT TRUTH

God made everything.

## BIBLE STORY

God's World  
Genesis 1:1-2:2

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 1:1

## PACK ITEMS

- 1 Story Picture: God's World
- 15 Genesis Letter Match
- 16 Days of Creation Chart
- 17 Days of Creation Cards

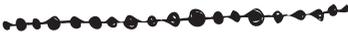
## LEADER TIP!

To children the world is full of amazing and exciting things! Look at God's world through a child's eyes and recapture the wonder and awe. Help children learn that God made our beautiful world and He expects us to take care of it.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## PRETEND TO CAMP

  
*Tools: Bible, small pop-up tent, a few camping items, red and yellow tissue paper, tape, plastic or paper stars, CD or app featuring nature sounds*

- Use the props to set up a "campsite."
- Talk about things people see, hear, and do while camping. Children may recall family campouts.
- Play the CD. Lead children to identify nature sounds.
- Say: "In the daytime we enjoy the sunshine and blue skies. At nighttime we see God's moon and stars. Thank You, God, for Your beautiful world."
- Open the Bible to Genesis 1. Say: "In the Book of Genesis we read that God created the world." Point to the Bible page as you tell the story.

## READ AND MATCH

  
*Tools: Bible, nature books and pictures of God's world, Genesis Letter Match (Pack)*

- Talk with children about things they can see, hear, touch, feel, and enjoy in God's world.
- Open the Bible to the Book of Genesis. Point to the word *Genesis*.
- Say: "Genesis is the name of the first book in the Bible. The word *Genesis* means 'beginnings.' Everything began with God."
- Lay the Genesis card on the table. Guide a child to match the letter cutouts to those on the card. Say: "You spelled the word *Genesis*!"

**FEEL AND GUESS**

*Tools: Bible; tree bark, feather, blades of grass, smooth stone (golf ball size), large unshelled nuts, seashell, bell pepper or potato; tall round box with a sock covering; Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD); Activity Page*

- Show the picture on the Activity Page. Lead children to identify things in God’s world. Remark: “God made a wonderful world. Everything God made is good.”
- Hold the box. Say: “I have some nature items in this box. God created each one of them. Let’s see if you can guess what they are.”
- Give each child a turn to reach her hand into the box and identify an item without looking. When she removes the item from the box, lay it aside.
- Turn to Genesis 1 and tell the Bible story.

**PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES**

*Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, toy people figures, Story Picture: God’s World (Pack), toy cars and trucks, masking tape*

- As children enjoy pretend play with the blocks and figures, talk about families. Say: “God made people, and He planned for families. God loves people.”
- Use the tape to make a few roads on the floor. Ask children their destinations and what they “see” on their driving routes. Say: “God gave you eyes and ears to enjoy His world.”
- Show children the Story Picture. Ask a child to name something in the picture. Say: “God made trees.” Thank God for the items mentioned.
- Turn to Genesis 1 and ask a child to hold the Bible while you tell the story.

**MAKE A CREATION QUILT**

*Tools: Bible, paper, crayons, washable markers, colored pencils, clear tape, Days of Creation Chart and Days of Creation Cards (Pack)*

- Show children the Creation Chart and count the letters across the page. Name the things that God made on each day of creation.
- Distribute the Creation Cards. Guide children to match the pictures to the days on which God made these things. Say: “God made everything in His world, and it was all good.”
- Show children Genesis 1 in the Bible. Remark that this is the place where we read about God’s creation.
- Invite children to choose one day of creation and draw a picture showing something God made.
- Lay drawings on a table in a quilt pattern and tape them together. Hang the “quilt” on the wall.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

God made everything.

### BIBLE STORY

God's World

Genesis 1:1–2:2

*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 1:1

### ENJOY PLAY DOUGH

*Tools: Bible; fresh play dough; shaped cookie cutters (such as animals, stars, people); Activity Page; Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD)*

- As a child enjoys pressing and cutting play dough, show him the Activity Page. Point to animals or plants or water. Tell the Bible story.
- Remark: “A verse in the Bible says that in the beginning, God made the world. God’s world is wonderful.”
- Ask the child to name a favorite animal or food. Thank God for providing food for people and animals.

### DECORATE SHOE OUTLINES

*Tools: Bible, paper, pencil, crayons, washable markers*

- Invite a child to stand on a piece of paper. Draw around the child’s shoes to make an outline.
- Give the preschooler crayons and markers to decorate his shoe outlines.
- Talk about the first people God made. Say: “God made many things before He made people. Then He made a man, then a woman. God loved the people. God loves you.”
- Open the Bible to Genesis 1:27 and say: “This is where we read that God made people. People were God’s most special creation.”

### WORK CREATION PUZZLES

*Tools: Bible, 2 or 3 wooden puzzles featuring God’s world, shoe box, solid-color place mats, Story Picture: God’s World (Pack Item 1)*

- Put all the puzzle pieces in the box and lay puzzle frames on place mats.
- Invite two children to work puzzles. Explain: “All the puzzles show things God made. The pieces for the puzzles are in the shoe box. Take turns getting pieces and deciding in which frame the pieces fit. You can work together.”
- As the children complete puzzles, tell the Bible story. Show the children the Story Picture and call on them to name things in God’s world.

## WASH VEGETABLES

*Tools: Bible; shallow dishpan with small amount of water; vegetable scrubber; vegetables such as potato, carrot, bell pepper, squash, eggplant; Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD); 2 towels*

- Invite a child to wash the vegetables. As she works, ask her which vegetables she eats. Comment on the wide variety of foods God planned for us. Say: “The Bible tells us that God made plants with seed. Has your family planted a vegetable garden before?”
- Turn to Genesis 1. Say: “In the very first book of the Bible we learn that God made water. You are washing the vegetables with cool water. God also planned for people and animals to have water to drink. Isn’t God good?”
- Say a thank-you to God for His wonderful world.

## LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD and lead children to clap to the music.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “You listened with your ears. God gave you ears to hear. He gave you eyes to see His world. Today you have heard a Bible story about everything God made. Let’s talk about the things God made.”
- Use the Days of Creation Chart and Days of Creation Cards (Pack Items 16, 17) to recall the things God made on each day of creation.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Pass a Bible around the group as the Enhanced CD plays. Stop the music and ask the child holding the Bible to stand. Help the child say the Bible verse. Give every child a turn.

### PRAY

- Ask children to tell their prayer requests.
- Say a simple prayer, thanking God for His beautiful world. Thank God for the Bible that helps us know that God made the world.

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



## Session 2



# OBEY GOD

## Genesis 2:15-17; 3

The simple command issued in Genesis 2—to eat the fruit from any tree in the garden, except for one—proved to be too much for Adam and Eve to handle. Eve, when presented with a too-good-to-be-true scenario, chose to sin. Sin, by nature, is enticing. The reason we sin is mostly because sin is fun. When the serpent slyly presented the perceived advantages of eating the fruit over the benefits of not, Eve chose what appeared to be the more enticing of the two options. She then encouraged Adam to eat as well. Not until after the sinful act did the two realize the true ramifications of what they had done.

The calm communion with God, Who walked with the man and woman in the garden each day, had now been broken. Access to their Creator on a personal, intimate level was no more. Death entered the picture. Adam and Eve’s work, which previously would have been much easier, was now marred by weeds, thorns, and thistles. The man and woman would experience pain, sadness, sickness, and ultimately death, themselves. To keep the man and woman from eating from the tree of life in the garden, God cast them out of the garden.

You may have read that last paragraph and thought, “Wow, harsh!” and on the surface, yes, it may be harsh; but this chapter also carries with it some very good news. Sin has a price. God told the first people to obey Him. They did not. The consequence of sin is that our world and our relationship with God are broken. The good news is that God had a plan to rescue people from sin and restore that broken relationship. God shared that plan in Genesis 3. Genesis 3:15 announces God’s plan to one day crush the head of the serpent. That fulfillment would come through the person of Jesus Christ.

God provided, through the death of an animal, clothing for Adam and Eve as they left the garden. Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection provided the ultimate salvation for people. Encourage kids and preschoolers to resist sin, and rejoice with them in the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God told the first people to obey Him.

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 2:15-17; 3

### BIBLE VERSE

Deuteronomy 11:1

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Know that Genesis is the name of the first book of the Bible.
- Understand the Bible teaches right and wrong.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

#### ► Work natural world puzzles.

*Tools: Bible, wooden puzzles featuring God’s world*

#### ► Create nature scenes with sticky notes to make peekaboo pictures.

*Tools: Bible, paper, colorful stickers of plants and flowers, sticky notes in various sizes*

#### ► Transfer cotton balls between containers.

*Tools: Bible, several large nonbreakable bowls, cotton balls in various colors, ice tongs*

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- In the beginning God created a perfectly peaceful place for people to commune with Him. Adam and Eve chose to sin and broke the relationship they had with God. People needed a Savior!
- The Book of Exodus spotlights the continued need for a Savior. As God’s people were enslaved in Egypt, Moses was sent to confront Pharaoh with a message.
- God’s command to Moses was simple and easy to follow. “Moses, do exactly what I tell you to do.” This is what God commanded Adam and Eve and all people to do.
- Adam and Eve’s moment of sin eventually led to the Israelites’ need for rescue. Through the obedience of Moses, God was going to rescue His people from slavery.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week’s devotional page to give to families.

## TEXT TRUTH

God told the first people to obey Him.

## BIBLE VERSE

Deuteronomy 11:1

## LEADER TIP!

The Bible does not tell us what kind of fruit was on the special tree.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADAM AND EVE

## Genesis 2:15-17; 3

*God created a beautiful garden called Eden for Adam to live in. (Adam was the first person God made.) God told Adam to work in the garden and watch over it. God told Adam he could eat from any of the trees in the garden except for one tree. God told Adam not to eat from this special tree.*

*Later God made a woman, Eve, to be with Adam in the garden. Eve was to help Adam. Both Adam and Eve were to stay away from the special tree. Those were God's instructions.*

*One day Eve was in the garden. She decided to eat fruit from the special tree even though she knew God said not to do that. Eve even gave some fruit from the tree to Adam to eat.*

*As soon as Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the special tree, they knew they had done wrong. They had broken God's rule. They had disobeyed God.*

*God was not happy about this. God said to Adam and Eve, "Did you eat fruit from the special tree? What is this you have done?"*

*Then God told Adam and Eve that no longer would they be allowed to live in the beautiful garden.*

## LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*Love God and always keep his commands. Deuteronomy 11:1*

Paraphrase:

*Love God and always obey Him. Deuteronomy 11:1*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- When children join you in the Circle Time area, play “Teacher Says.”
- Explain: “When I name an action and say, ‘Teacher says . . .’ then you may do the action. If I do not say, ‘Teacher says . . .’ at the beginning, then do not do the action.”
- Give several suggestions for actions. End the game with the instruction: “Teacher says, sit in a circle.”

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Thank children for obeying every instruction the teacher said. Remark: “Our Bible story today tells about God giving instructions to two people.”
- Open the Bible to Genesis 2 and tell the Bible story. Afterwards, show preschoolers the Story Picture.
- Give each child a turn to open the Bible at a Bible marker. Read the Bible verse aloud with the child.
- Sing a song about today’s Bible verse. To the tune “Jesus Loves Me” (chorus), sing: *I’ll do what God says, I’ll do what God says. I’ll do what God says, God said to obey.*

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Give every child a Bible. Say: “The first book in the Bible is Genesis. Let’s say that word together.”
- Guide boys and girls to turn to Genesis 2. Say: “This part of Genesis tells about God giving instructions to Adam and Eve.”
- Ask: “What did God want Adam and Eve to do?” Wait for answers. Then remark: “The Bible helps us know what to do. God wants us to love God and obey Him.”

### PRAY

- Pray for the boys and girls, that God would help them to obey Him.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bibles
- Enhanced CD:  
September Bible Verse  
Markers for Sessions 1 & 2

### PACK ITEM

- 2 Story Picture: Instructions for Adam and Eve

## TEXT TRUTH

God told the first people to obey Him.

## BIBLE STORY

Instructions for Adam and Eve  
Genesis 2:15-17; 3

## BIBLE VERSE

Deuteronomy 11:1

## PACK ITEMS

2 Story Picture: Instructions for Adam and Eve  
19 Nature Collage Pictures

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## BUILD A GARDEN SCENE



*Tools: Bible; Story Picture: Instructions for Adam and Eve (Pack), wooden blocks, blue and green construction paper, tape*

- Suggest that children build a garden scene using the blocks. Preschoolers can tear blue paper to make a water feature, or tape green paper to blocks to make trees.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 2 and say: "Genesis tells about Adam and Eve. They lived in the beautiful garden God made."
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture and continue telling the Bible story in your own words.
- Comment: "God knows what is best for us. We should love God and always obey Him."

## TASTE FRUITS



*Tools: Bible; Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD); apple, banana, orange; paper plates, sheet of paper, crayons*

- Peel and slice the fruits before the session. Draw a graph, listing fruits on one side, and children's names on the other.
- When preschoolers sample the fruits, say a thank-you to God for each fruit.
- Encourage children to color a square on the graph to show their favorite fruit. Say: "God made fruit trees. You chose your favorite fruit."
- Open the Bible to Genesis 2 and tell the Bible story. Remark that God made one tree special.

## PLAY A TRAFFIC GAME

*Tools: Bible; Enhanced CD, sheet of red paper, sheet of green paper*

- Give instructions for the game. Tell preschoolers: "Pretend to drive a vehicle around the room. When I hold up the green paper, you may move. When I hold up the red paper, you must stop."
- Play the Enhanced CD as the children follow directions. Invite children to take turns "directing traffic" using the paper.
- Afterwards, open the Bible to Genesis 2. Explain: "You obeyed when you followed my instructions. God gave instructions to Adam and Eve. God told them to obey Him."
- Turn to Deuteronomy 11:1 and add: "The Bible tells us to love God and always obey Him."

## MAKE A NATURE COLLAGE

*Tools: Bible, Nature Collage Pictures (Pack), magazine pictures of fruit, clear contact plastic, masking tape, Activity Page*

- Cut a square of contact plastic for each child. Tape a square, sticky side up, to the table or floor.
- Invite a child to arrange pictures on plastic. While he is busy, ask about his favorite fruits.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 2. Comment: "In the Book of Genesis we read that God put Adam and Eve in a garden. God told the people they could eat fruit from every tree except one special tree."
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page. Say: "God told the first people to obey Him. God wants us to obey Him, too."

## SORT NATURE ITEMS

*Tools: Bible; Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD); September Bible Verse Markers (Enhanced CD); flowers, large leaves, firm fruit; construction paper sheets in autumn colors*

- Invite children to examine nature items. Relate the items to the garden God made for Adam and Eve.
- Direct children to place leaves or fruit on matching colors of paper. Or tell children to group flowers, leaves, and so on.
- Say: "You followed my instructions to sort the nature items. God gave Adam and Eve instructions, too."
- Recall that God's instructions were for Adam and Eve to not eat fruit from the special tree.
- Open the Bible to today's Bible marker. Comment: "Words in the Bible tell us to love God and always obey Him."

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

God told the first people to obey Him.

### BIBLE STORY

Instructions for Adam and Eve  
 Genesis 2:15-17; 3  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Deuteronomy 11:1

### DRAW PICTURES

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, paper, crayons, washable markers*

- Invite a child to name some favorite fruits. Suggest he choose one or two favorites and draw pictures of his choices.
- Look at the Activity Page together. Say: “God wants us to be kind to others and obey our parents. We can do what is right. We can choose to obey God.”
- Recall the Bible story. Remark: “God told the first people to obey Him. Adam and Eve chose not to obey God. They made a wrong choice.”

### FOLLOW THE LEADER

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Instructions for Adam and Eve (Pack Item 2), beanbag*

- Show children the Story Picture. Ask the children what they know or remember about this story. Give hints as needed. Say: “The story about Adam and Eve is from the Book of Genesis.” Help the children locate Genesis in the Bible.
- Say: “The Bible tells that God gave important instructions to Adam and Eve. The Bible also tells us to love God and always obey Him.”
- Invite children to play a follow-the-leader game. Give directions for preschoolers to follow. After a few commands, toss the beanbag to a child to give him a turn to be the leader. Give all the children a turn to lead.
- Commend the children for following instructions.

### MAKE PLAY DOUGH LETTERS

*Tools: Bible, 2 pieces of poster board, fresh play dough, marker*

- Write the words *Obey God* in large manuscript letters on the poster boards.
- Give a preschooler a board and some play dough. Suggest that he roll pieces of dough into strips, then shape the dough strips over the letters.
- Read the words to the child, noting that God wants us to obey Him.

## DRIVE COMMUNITY HELPER VEHICLES

*Tools: Bible, community helper vehicles, toy road signs*

- As preschoolers play with the vehicles, help them identify the work community helpers do. Say: “God gave firefighters work to do. They put out fires and help us stay safe.”
- Tell the Bible story and mention that God told Adam to work in the garden.
- Pick up a road sign. Comment that road signs give instructions for safety while traveling. Say: “God gave instructions to Adam and Eve. God wanted to help the people.”
- Help a preschooler open the Bible to Genesis 2. Point to the place where we read about the instructions God gave to Adam and Eve.

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Instruct children to clap along as you clap to different beats.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “You listened to my instructions. You obeyed and clapped slowly with me, and then clapped quickly with me. Now let’s remember a Bible story about people who did not listen to God and disobeyed Him.”
- Hold the Story Picture out to each child in turn as you prompt everyone to recall the Bible story.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Lead boys and girls to clap the syllables for these Bible words: *Eve* (one clap), *Adam* (two claps), *Genesis* (three claps).
- Encourage volunteers to suggest other words related to the Bible story, such as *God* (one clap), *garden* (two claps), or *disobeyed* (three claps).

### PRAY

- Thank God for each child by name. Ask God to help each preschooler learn to love God and always obey Him.

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



## Session 3



# GOD CARES

**Genesis 6:9–8:22; 9:12-17**

God loves and cares for people. We are, after all, His creation. The sin that began with that first bite back in Genesis 3 had grown to become a worldwide problem. Genesis 6:5 sadly says that “wickedness was widespread and that the only thoughts people had were of evil all the time.” The spread and evidence of sin grieved God in His heart. What a tragic statement to think of the Creator of the universe grieved in His heart because all that man could think of was evil. Graciously God’s plan for redemption was still in motion. One man was found righteous on the earth and God had a plan to rescue Noah and his family.

Genesis 6:9 introduces Noah as a righteous man and tells that Noah had a close relationship with the Lord. God shared with Noah the reality that was to come and gave him specific instructions on how to construct an ark that would deliver Noah, his family, and many animals to safety. The words of Genesis 6:22 should be words for us to live by. These simple words state that Noah did everything that God had commanded him. Noah did not waver in his obedience and did what God said. Oh, to have obedience like that.

Through the raging storm, Noah and his family and the animals were safe upon the ark. For about a year this was the only place they would call home. Once the ark came to rest and the inhabitants departed, God issued the first significant covenant mentioned in the Bible. God described this covenant promise to Noah as “My” covenant. It was issued by and ratified by God Himself. God’s covenant with Noah declared that never again would the entire earth be covered by flood. This covenant is also the first one to be accompanied by a sign. The sign God gave was that of the rainbow. The sign of the rainbow served as God’s reminder of the covenant He had made with Noah. But it also reminds all who see the rainbow of the promise God made to never flood the earth again. God made a covenant with Noah and God always keeps His covenants. As you share about God’s faithfulness and love for people, recall with joy God’s plan for redemption.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God loves and cares for people.

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 6:9–8:22; 9:12-17

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 9:16

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to pronounce the name of a Bible book.
- Remember the names of familiar Bible people.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► **Work animal puzzles while sitting under an umbrella suspended from the ceiling.**

*Tools: Bible, wooden animal puzzles, umbrella, thin rope or sturdy string*

► **Draw with crayons or markers in various shades of blue.**

*Tools: Bible, paper, crayons, washable markers*

► **Find God’s name in the Bible.**

*Tools: Bible, toy magnifying glass, small sticky note flags, paper with God written in large letters*



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Adam and Eve’s sin led to the whole earth living according to their own desires instead of the desires of God. God’s judgment was coming.
- God faithfully provided for Noah and his family during the flood. Noah worshiped God with a sacrifice.
- Exodus 12 records another sacrifice commanded by God. This sacrifice would establish a new covenant between the people and God. Passover recalls the night God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt.
- God’s provision for Noah during the flood, as well as God’s provision of a way of escape for His people from slavery during Passover, both point ultimately to the sacrifice Christ made on the cross. God keeps His promises and He provided Jesus as the final sacrifice to bear the judgment for sin as the rescuer for all who trust in Him.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week’s devotional page to give to families.

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)

## TEXT TRUTH

God loves and cares for people.

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 9:16

## LEADER TIP!

Hold the Bible open to Genesis 6 as you tell about Noah and the ark. Though many children may be familiar with the story, they may not realize it is a true story from the Bible.

## LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

# GOD TOOK CARE OF NOAH

**Genesis 6:9–8:22; 9:12-17**

*Noah was a good man. He was honest and treated people kindly. Noah loved God and obeyed Him. But almost everyone else was disobedient to God.*

*So God would send a flood. The rain would fall day after day and it would cover up everything.*

*God wanted to keep Noah and his family safe from the flood. God said: “Noah, build an ark. This is how to build it.” Then God told Noah how long, how wide, and how tall to make the ark.*

*When the ark was ready, God told Noah to take his family and the animals onto the ark. God closed the big door.*

*Seven days later the rain began to fall. It rained and rained. The rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights. It never stopped! Water was everywhere, but Noah and his family were safe.*

*Finally God stopped the rain. When the ground dried, God told Noah and his family to come out of the ark.*

*God told Noah and his family to live on the earth and have children. God made a promise to Noah. God said He would never send a flood like the one He sent before.*

*God said, “I have made a rainbow. It will be in the clouds, and I will look at it and remember the promise between Me and people on the earth.”*

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*The bow will be in the clouds, and I will remember the covenant.  
Genesis 9:16*

Paraphrase:

*God said, “I will remember My promise to people.” Genesis 9:16*



# CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

## GATHER

- Help each child face a partner and follow your instructions. Lead preschoolers to copy your actions as you repeat the following rhythm: *God gives me* (clap three times) *food to eat* (high five three times with partner), *water to drink* (clap three times), *air to breathe* (high five three times with partner). *He takes care of me* (clap three times)!

## HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Comment: “Good job! You followed my instructions. Now let’s hear about someone who followed God’s instructions. Listen carefully to hear how God took care of a man named Noah.”
- Open the Bible to Genesis 6 and tell the Bible story. Then show the Story Picture to each child in turn.
- Hold the Animal Match Cards so children do not see them. Describe an animal for children to guess. When children identify the animal, show the picture of that animal and lay it faceup on the floor. Say: “Noah took this animal on the ark.” Repeat with all the animal cards.

## PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place Bible markers in the Bible for the first three sessions in September. Say: “The first book of the Bible is Genesis.” Lead children to repeat the name with you.
- Add: “We read about God’s world in Genesis. We read about Adam and Eve in Genesis. We read about Noah in Genesis. We learn about God in every book of the Bible.”
- Pass the Bible around the circle. Give each child a turn to open it to a Bible marker. Lead the group to repeat each Bible verse together.

## PRAY

- Thank God for His love and care for people. Thank Him for the Bible that helps us know that God always keeps His promises.

## OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

## OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

## TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD:  
September Bible Verse  
Markers

## PACK ITEMS

- 3 Story Picture: God Took  
Care of Noah
- 20 Animal Match Cards

## TEXT TRUTH

God loves and cares for people.

## BIBLE STORY

God Took Care of Noah  
Genesis 6:9–8:22; 9:12-17

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 9:16

## PACK ITEM

3 Story Picture: God Took Care of Noah

## LEADER TIP!

If you have limited space or teachers, offer only one water activity. Or enlist the help of an extra teacher during the session.

## LEADER TIP!

Supervise children closely while they use the materials to make rainsticks.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## MAKE RAINSTICKS



*Tools: Bible, mailing tubes, packing peanuts or crumpled aluminum foil, towel, small scoop, birdseed or dry rice, animal stickers, tape*

- Guide a child to fill a mailing tube with packing peanuts or crumpled foil.
- Rest the bottom of the tube on a towel as the preschooler scoops a small amount of birdseed or rice into the tube. Replace tube lids, then seal both ends of the tube securely with tape.
- Direct a preschooler to decorate his rainstick with animal stickers. When he finishes, invite him to shake the stick to make rain sounds.
- Remark that Noah probably heard the rain fall on the ark day after day.

## PLAY WITH TOY BOATS



*Tools: Bible, toy boats, large plastic pan, water, towels, straws*

- Place the pan on a towel and pour in an inch of water. Lay other towels nearby.
- Invite a child to float boats in the water. Suggest that he use a straw to blow and move the boat.
- Turn to Genesis 6 as you recall the Bible story. Ask the child if he has seen a rainbow. Say: “The rainbow reminds us that God loves and cares for people.”
- Point to Genesis 9:16 and read the Bible verse. Lead the preschooler to say the verse and reference.

**DRAW RAINBOWS**

*Tools: Bible; September Bible Verse Markers (Enhanced CD), Activity Page, paper, crayons or washable markers, picture of a rainbow*

- Show a child the picture on the Activity Page. Comment that God took care of Noah and helped him during the flood. Then God put a rainbow in the sky as a promise to Noah.
- Open the Bible to the Genesis 9:16 Bible marker. Say: "When we see a rainbow, we remember that God cares for us. God said, 'I will remember My promise to people.'"
- Invite the preschooler to draw a rainbow. While the child draws, say thank you to God for His love and care.
- Help another preschooler follow the maze on the back of the Activity Page.

**MATCH TOOL SHAPES**

*Tools: Bible; Story Picture: God Took Care of Noah (Pack), toy carpentry tools, poster board, marker*

- Trace the outlines of various carpentry tools on the poster board. Set the tools next to the poster board.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture. Comment: "God told Noah to build an ark. An ark is a boat. Noah obeyed God."
- Help a child identify some carpentry tools. Direct her to match the tools to their outlines. Talk about ways people use the tools.
- Mention that Noah likely used tools to build the ark.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 6 and tell the Bible story. Tell the child that God loved and cared for Noah.

**FLOAT AND SINK ITEMS**

*Tools: Bible; long sheet of paper, marker; plastic curtain or sheet; dishpan; water; towels; assorted water-safe items that float or sink (plastic spoon, cotton ball, wooden block, plastic boat, rock, crayon)*

- Draw a line to divide the paper into two sections. Print the word *Float* in one section and the word *Sink* in the other section.
- Invite children to test items to determine whether they stay on top of the water (float) or drop to the bottom of the pan (sink). After testing an item, write the name of the item in the appropriate section of the paper.
- Open the Bible to Genesis 6. Remark: "The ark that Noah built floated on the water. Wood floats on water."
- Tell the Bible story. Help children remember that God loved Noah and took care of him.

## **NEXT HOUR** (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### **OPTIONS**

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### **TEXT TRUTH**

God loves and cares for people.

### **BIBLE STORY**

God Took Care of Noah  
 Genesis 6:9–8:22; 9:12-17  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### **BIBLE VERSE**

Genesis 9:16

### **STAMP LETTERS**

*Tools: Bible; paper; letter stamps; ink pad; cards with the words God, love, and Noah printed on them*

- Give a preschooler a sheet of paper and an ink pad. Show him the word cards and read them. Say: “Look for letters on the stamps to help you spell a word. These words help us remember that God loved Noah and He loves us.”
- Assist a preschooler in finding letters to spell a word. Guide him to say the word. Then recall the Bible story with the preschooler.

### **PLAY OUT THE BIBLE STORY**

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: God Took Care of Noah (Pack Item 3), wooden blocks, toy animals*

- Show children the Story Picture. Tell about God’s plan to care for Noah, his family, and the animals.
- Suggest that preschoolers work together to build a boat or ark and put the animals on it. Say: “Noah obeyed God and built the ark. The story about Noah is in the Book of Genesis.”
- Help a child open the Bible to Genesis 6. Talk about the story as you look at the Story Picture together.
- Turn to Genesis 9:16 and say the Bible verse with the children.

### **PLAY A MATCHING GAME**

*Tools: Bible, Animal Match Cards (Pack Item 20), Activity Page*

- Lay the cards facedown in random order. Guide a child to turn over two cards at a time. If the cards match, leave the cards faceup. If they do not match, the child turns them facedown again.
- Ask the child to identify the animals. Say: “These are some of the animals that Noah took into the ark.” Show the picture on the Activity Page.
- Summarize the Bible story and guide the child to work the maze puzzle on the back of the Activity Page.

- Pray, thanking God for His care for Noah and the animals. Lead the child to thank God for caring for him.

## PAINT OVER A HIDDEN MESSAGE

*Tools: Bible, paper, white crayon, thin blue paint, paintbrush*

- Use the crayon to print the words *God loves you* on each child's paper.
- Invite a child to paint over the paper to reveal an important message.
- Say: "God loves and cares for people. God loves you, too. We read in the Bible that God cared for Noah."
- Open the Bible to Genesis 6 and tell the Bible story. Commend the child for any details of the Bible story he can repeat back to you.

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Play music from the Enhanced CD. Lead children to move like their favorite animals as they join you in the Circle Time area.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask: "Where did the animals go when God sent the flood?" (*on the ark*) "Who built the ark?" (*Noah*) "What Bible book tells about Noah?" (*Genesis*)
- Show the Story Picture to help preschoolers recall details of the Bible story.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place a ribbon at Genesis 9:16.
- Hold out the Bible and prompt children to name the first book in the Bible.
- Lead each child to open the Bible to the ribbon and touch the words as you read the Bible verse aloud.
- Lead children to repeat the verse.

### PRAY

- Invite volunteers to pray. Then thank God for His love and care. Thank Him for the Bible which tells about Him.

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



## Session 4



# GOD'S PLAN

**Genesis 11:27-31; 12:1-9**

Unfortunately, a world marred by sin was still a reality following Noah's rescue through the flood. God's plan was still active and unchanged. At the end of Genesis 11, Terah, Abram's father, had taken Abram, Abram's wife, and a grandson named Lot to live in the land of Haran. Abram was a man of faith! As Genesis 12 opens, God called Abram to move away from his father's household in Haran to a new land that God would show him. Abram, in obedience to God, moved with his wife, and nephew, Lot, to the land of Canaan.

God's call of Abram is summarized in the first 3 verses of Chapter 12. The Bible does not tell us why God chose Abram, but we know from Hebrews 11 that Abram was a man of great faith. God had a plan for Abram and God told Abram His plan. Have you ever wondered how would you respond if in the same situation as Abram?

Genesis 12:2 begins the promissory section of Abram's call. Think of the promise God was giving Abram. He would be a great nation, blessed by God, a blessing to others, and his name would be great. Any nation that blessed Abram would be blessed by God; those who did not would be cursed by God. That's a lot to take in. The very next phrase simply says, "Abram went!" Abram did not stand around making excuses for why he could not possibly go ... he went. Abram did not go tell all of his friends what he was doing ... he went. Abram trusted in God's plan for him and he obediently followed God's leading.

Genesis 12 gives a glimpse into what a blessing following God can be. God's special plan for Abram was a blessing to everyone. Because of Abram's obedience to follow God's plan, everyone has been blessed by God's plan. The promise God gave to Abram was ultimately fulfilled through Jesus Christ. Through Abram's family, Jesus Christ came to earth and died a death on the cross to bless all the peoples of the earth. Jesus' death provides the way of salvation for those who trust in Him and receive His gift of forgiveness. Thank God today for the blessing that has come through Abram.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God told Abram His plan.

### BIBLE STORY

Genesis 11:27-31; 12:1-9

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 12:2

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Genesis is a book about beginnings—the beginning of the world, the beginning of a people chosen by God, and the beginning of God’s plan to restore all people to Him through His Son, Jesus.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to pronounce the names of books of the Bible.
- Help open the Bible to a Bible book.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► **Work puzzles about families or transportation.**

*Tools: Bible, wooden transportation or family puzzles such as Family Prayers (LifeWay, 005191559)*

► **Draw with crayons on sandpaper.**

*Tools: Bible, fine-grade sandpaper, crayons*

► **Build block roads to use with toy vehicles.**

*Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, toy vehicles*



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Genesis 12 is a story of new beginnings. God’s plan to send a Savior would come through the family of Abram.
- God’s promise to make Abram’s family into a great nation is partially realized in Exodus. After God’s deliverance of the nation following the Passover, Israel was poised on the banks of the Red Sea ready for a new beginning.
- The stories of Abram’s faithful obedience to move when God told him to, and Moses’ faithful obedience to extend his staff over the Red Sea, show God’s blessing for faithful obedience.
- An appropriate response to rescue is worship. Abram worshiped God when he arrived in the land God had called him to. Likewise, once safely delivered to the other side of the sea, Moses led the Israelites in worship of the one true God.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week’s devotional page to give to families.

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)

## TEXT TRUTH

God told Abram His plan.

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 12:2

## LEADER TIP!

*Bless* may be a new word for preschoolers. Explain that to bless means to love and care for someone.

# A NEW HOME FOR ABRAM

## Genesis 11:27-31; 12:1-9

*One day God spoke to Abram. "Abram, leave this land. Leave your father's house. Go to a new homeland. I will show you how to get there."*

*Abram listened to God. Then God told Abram that He would bless him. God would make Abram's name great. God said He would bless the people who were kind to Abram, and He would punish people who were unkind and did harmful things to Abram and his family. "All the people on earth will be blessed because of you, Abram," God said.*

*So Abram obeyed God. He did what God told him to do. Abram took his nephew Lot, his wife Sarai, and everything they owned. They packed all their belongings and loaded the donkeys and wagons. Abram began the long trip to a new land called Canaan.*

*Walk, walk, walk. For a long time the people walked. When they reached Canaan, Abram stopped and looked around.*

*God said, "Abram, I will give this land to your children."*

*Abram wanted to thank God in a special way. He built an altar to God right there. Then Abram and the people traveled farther in the land and put up their tents. Again Abram built an altar and thanked God. Abram knew God loved him and would take care of him and his family in the new land.*

## LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*I will bless you and make your name great. Genesis 12:2*

Paraphrase:

*God said, "I will bless you." Genesis 12:2*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD and invite the children to join you in the Circle Time area.
- Suggest playing out ways to travel. Ask the children: “How might you move around the circle if you were carrying a heavy bag? How might you move if you were riding an animal?” Encourage volunteers to suggest other ways to travel.
- Say: “Our Bible story tells about a family who moved a long, long way. Let’s hear why they moved so far.”

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Genesis 11 and tell the Bible story.
- Show preschoolers the Story Picture, then pass it around the circle.
- Lead children to sing and follow your actions. To the tune “Mary Had a Little Lamb,” sing:  
*Abram’s family \*took a trip, took a trip, took a trip.*  
*Abram’s family took a trip. They did what God said.*  
 Substitute: *packed their things, stopped and ate, set up tents, traveled far, were thankful.*

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place all the September Bible Verse Markers (Enhanced CD) in the appropriate locations in the Bible.
- Give every child an opportunity to choose a marker and open the Bible to the Bible verse. Read the words aloud.
- Mention: “Three of the Bible verses we have heard are in the Book of Genesis. One verse is in the Book of Deuteronomy.”
- Lead children to say “Genesis,” then “Deuteronomy.”

### PRAY

- Ask volunteers to pray for concerns they have. End the prayer time thanking God for always loving us and helping us know His plan.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD:  
September Bible Verse  
Markers

### PACK ITEM

- 4 Story Picture: A New Home for Abram

## TEXT TRUTH

God told Abram His plan.

## BIBLE STORY

A New Home for Abram  
Genesis 11:27-31; 12:1-9

## BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 12:2

## PACK ITEM

4 Story Picture: A New Home for Abram

## LEADER TIP!

Excitement is contagious. As you show you are excited and thankful for God's blessings, you help preschoolers become excited about the ways God is blessing them, too.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## PACK AND GO



*Tools: Bible, suitcase or backpack, a few items of children's clothes or doll clothes, cardboard box*

- Talk with a child about a trip he might like to take. Where will he go? What clothing will he pack in the suitcase?
- Mention moving to a new home. Lead the child to pack in the box items such as toy dishes, books, or toys. Perhaps the child has moved and recalls how his family packed their things.
- Say: "Abram had to move to a new home. It was God's plan for his family."
- Ask the preschooler to touch Genesis 12:2. Say: "We read here that God said, 'I will bless you.' God loved Abram and told him how he would take care of him."

## MAKE BRACELETS



*Tools: Bible; Story Picture: A New Home for Abram (Pack), large jingle bells, chenille stems*

- Guide a child to thread several jingle bells onto a chenille stem. Twist the ends of the stem together to make a bracelet.
- Open the Bible to today's Bible story passage and tell about Abram listening to God and moving to a new home.
- Show the preschooler the Story Picture.
- Tell the child: "When you listen to the bells on your bracelet, you can remember that Abraham listened to God."

**MAKE A TREAT**

*Tools: Bible; applesauce, cinnamon candies, paper cups, spoons; Applesauce Surprise Cups Recipe (Enhanced CD); Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD)*

- Help a child count the number of candies pictured in the recipe and then stir the same number of candies into his cup of applesauce.
- When the applesauce turns pink, say: “You listened to directions and followed the recipe. Good job.”
- Add: “Abram listened to God. God told Abram His plan. Let’s look at the Bible to learn what Abram did.”
- Open the Bible to Genesis 11 and tell the Bible story.
- Pray, thanking God for His love and care.

**CREATE A THANK-YOU BOOK**

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, copy of Thank You, God Booklet (Enhanced CD) for each child, crayons or washable markers*

- Before the session, print and fold a copy of the booklet for each child.
- Tuck the Activity Page into the Bible at Genesis 11.
- Hold the Bible open to Genesis 11 and say: “We read in the Book of Genesis about Abram. Abram thanked God for His love and special plan for him.”
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page.
- Remark: “Abram said thank You to God. What are you thankful for?”
- Suggest that children draw pictures in their booklets to show things for which they are thankful.

**BUILD A CAMPFIRE**

*Tools: Bible; wooden blocks; red, orange, or yellow tissue paper*

- Ask children about trips they have taken with their families. How did they travel? Where did they stay? Was it a long trip or a short trip?
- Point to the tissue paper. Suggest that children build a pretend campfire with blocks and paper.
- As you sit around the campfire together, open the Bible to Genesis 11 and tell the Bible story.
- Say: “Abram’s family moved to a new home. They probably stopped at night and built a fire to cook their food or warm themselves.”
- To the tune “London Bridge,” sing:  
*God told Abram, ‘Leave this land, leave this land, leave this land.’*  
*God told Abram, ‘Leave this land.’ Abram listened!*

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

God told Abram His plan.

### BIBLE STORY

A New Home for Abram  
 Genesis 11:27-31; 12:1-9  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 12:2

### LACE A SHAPE

*Tools: Bible, solid-color place mat (cut into 3 large geometric shapes), permanent marker, hole punch, shoelaces*

- On each shape print the words *God told Abram His plan*. Punch holes around each shape, 1 inch apart and 1 inch from the edge. Tie a shoelace through one hole of each shape.
- Invite a child to thread the shoelace through a shape. Read the words on the shape.
- Comment: “God loved Abram and told him about a very special plan. Abram knew God loved him. Abram moved just as God told him to do.”

### PACK DISHES

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A New Home for Abram (Pack Item 4), cardboard box, toy dishes, newspaper*

- Invite children to wrap dishes in newspaper and pack them in the box.
- Encourage children to tell about experiences moving to a new home. Say: “God told Abram to move and go to a new land called Canaan.”
- Look at the Story Picture together as you help boys and girls recall details of the Bible story.
- Read the Bible verse to the children. Say: “God blessed Abram. God loved Abram and cared for him. God loves and cares for you, too.”

### DRIVE TOY VEHICLES

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, several toy vehicles, large pieces of cardboard, markers*

- Draw roads on the cardboard. As preschoolers move vehicles along the roads, say: “The brown cardboard reminds me of the dusty road Abram traveled on to get to the new land where he and his family would live.”
- Show preschoolers the picture on the Activity Page. Summarize the Bible story, reminding children that God had a plan for Abram. Comment: “Abram loved God and obeyed Him. Abram knew God would take care of him and his family.”

## WALK AROUND THE ROOM

*Tools: Bible*

- Hold the Bible open to Genesis 11. Say: “We read in the Book of Genesis about Abram. God told Abram to move to a new land. Abram listened to God and followed His instructions.”
- Say: “Listen carefully and follow my instructions.” Lead children to walk around the room. Direct them to walk quickly or slowly, backwards, or on tiptoe. They may march or walk while singing, talking, or whispering.
- Commend the children for listening and doing what you said to do. Remind them that Abram did what God said to do.

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD and encourage children to gather.
- Play a guessing game about ways to travel. Give clues such as: “I have four legs. I have a mane and tail. I say ‘Hee-haw.’ What am I?” (donkey)

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show the Story Picture and ask questions to help children recall details of the Bible story.
- To the tune “London Bridge,” sing:  
*God told Abram, ‘Leave this land,  
leave this land, leave this land.’ God*

*told Abram, “Leave this land.’ Abram listened.*

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place three colors of paper on the floor. Put three strips of paper at Genesis 1, 11, and 12.
- Tell a child to toss a beanbag onto a paper, then open the Bible to the matching color. Say: “You opened the Bible to the first book of the Bible. This is the Book of Genesis.”

### PRAY

- Pray, thanking God for the Bible.

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



## Session 5



# THE FIRST CHURCH

## Acts 2:41-47

The Book of Acts opens at the time following the resurrection of Christ. The early verses share Jesus giving some last encouragement before He returned to heaven in a cloud. Jesus charged the disciples to be witnesses for Him everywhere they went. The disciples were not charged to do this of their own accord. A helper—the Holy Spirit—was promised. Ten days following that promise, the Holy Spirit did indeed arrive.

Pentecost was one of three major Jewish festivals. It occurred 50 days following Passover. The celebration signified the end of the grain harvest and normally brought quite a crowd to Jerusalem. This particular Pentecost would be significantly different for the disciples. As they were gathered together in a room the Holy Spirit came on them and gave them the ability to speak in different languages. Others who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost were confused, but Peter stood up to preach to them and explain what was happening.

In verses 17-21 of Acts 2, Peter began his sermon by quoting from Joel 2 and heralding in the messianic age. Peter saw the fulfillment of this passage in the events of Pentecost and began at that point teaching how Christ fulfilled those Scriptures. Peter continued teaching the assembled worshipers that only Jesus was both Lord and Messiah. As with any good sermon, Peter left his message open for response, and 3,000 people were baptized. As He did with Peter, the Holy Spirit empowers us to share the gospel with everyone.

The 3,000 conversions seen on that day are what is typically referred to as the start of the Christian church. In the church people met together to learn about Jesus, they ate, they sang, and they encouraged one another. As you meet together to learn about Jesus, guide boys and girls to understand that it is the Holy Spirit Who helps us tell others about Jesus. Encourage kids to rely on the Holy Spirit to give them the words to tell others about Jesus.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

People met together to learn about Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY

Acts 2:41-47

### BIBLE VERSE

Acts 2:36

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Jesus established the church to continue what He began and to spread the good news all over the world.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Know there are two main parts of the Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Understand that the Bible tells that God sent Jesus to earth.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

► **Design a picture using happy face stickers.**

*Tools: Bible, paper, crayons, happy face stickers*

► **Build a house with blocks.**

*Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, picture of typical Bible times house (Enhanced CD)*

► **Take turns with a friend, tossing beanbags into a container.**

*Tools: Bible, beanbags, cardboard box or plastic dishpan*

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Acts 2 introduces the beginning of the church. The believers, gathered in an upper room, were fearful for their future. Jesus had promised to send a “helper.” On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came.
- Jesus had instructed His disciples in Acts 1 to spread the message He had modeled for them, first in their city, then the surrounding countryside, then to the ends of the earth. The Helper Who came would empower them for this mission.
- In Exodus, the Israelites, led by God, had been delivered from the slavery of the Egyptians, and God had faithfully delivered them through the Red Sea. Israel grumbled for food and God promised to provide.
- God’s provision for Israel came when He sent quail and manna. The manna sustained the Israelites as God led them in the desert. As in the desert, God’s Spirit sustained and led the early church believers and continues to sustain and lead Christians today.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week’s devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

## TEXT TRUTH

People met together to learn about Jesus.

## BIBLE VERSE

Acts 2:36

# THE FIRST CHURCH

## Acts 2:41-47

*What an exciting time! People in the cities and towns began hearing more and more about Jesus. They went to the places where Jesus' helpers taught. The people listened to the men preach.*

*The people wanted to be together every day to learn, eat together, visit with one another, and pray. All the people loved Jesus and wanted to learn more about Him.*

*Sometimes the people met in churches and sometimes they met in people's homes. Wherever they met, the people listened to Jesus' helpers tell about Jesus. The people were amazed.*

*The church friends shared everything they owned. When a person needed something, a church friend gave it to him.*

*Every day the people met together—not just one day, but every day! Meeting together made the people happy. They sang songs to God and told Him thank You for His love and care.*

*The people at church were glad to know about Jesus and His love for them. And more and more people came to know and love Jesus.*

## LEADER TIP!

Enjoy Circle Time. Your enthusiasm can help hold children's interest.

## LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*Let all of Israel know that God made Jesus Lord. Acts 2:36*

Paraphrase:

*Let everyone know God sent Jesus. Acts 2:36*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- As children join you in the Circle Time area, wave hello to each other. Wave quickly, slowly, happily, sadly, or with elbows, feet, or ears.
- When preschoolers are seated, say: “I’m so glad we can be together to learn about Jesus. The Bible tells about church friends who met together every day to learn more about Jesus.”

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Acts 2 and tell the Bible story with excitement. Make eye contact with the children as you portray the happiness of the people when they learned about Jesus.
- Pass the Story Picture around the circle. When everyone has studied the picture, ask: “Why were the people excited?” (They wanted to learn about Jesus.)
- Remark: “God wants us to tell everyone that He sent Jesus.” Talk about ways to help visually or hearing impaired people learn about Jesus. Show the Jesus Loves You Cards (Pack). Guide children to feel the raised dots on the Braille cards. Practice signing “Jesus loves you” to each other.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Encourage volunteers to take turns opening the Bible to today’s Bible marker. Read the Bible verse aloud. Comment: “We can let everyone know God sent Jesus. People who cannot see can read a Bible printed in Braille. Hearing-impaired people can tell others about Jesus using American Sign Language.”
- Tell boys and girls that the Bible has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. We read about the first church in the New Testament. Open the Bible to the Bible marker and add: “Acts is a book in the New Testament. The Book of Acts tells us to let everyone know God sent Jesus.”

### PRAY

- Pray briefly, thanking God for sending Jesus.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD:  
October Bible Verse Markers

### PACK ITEMS

- 5 Story Picture: The First Church
- 23 Jesus Loves You Cards

## TEXT TRUTH

People met together to learn about Jesus.

## BIBLE STORY

The First Church  
Acts 2:41-47

## BIBLE VERSE

Acts 2:36

## PACK ITEMS

5 Story Picture: The First Church  
22 Bible Matching Cards

## LEADER TIP!

Your enthusiasm and excitement for learning about Jesus is contagious. As you tell Bible stories, children will learn that the Bible is a special and important book that helps us know about Jesus.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## PREPARE FOR GUESTS



*Tools: Bible, toy broom and dustpan, dust cloth, wet wipes, toy dishes*

- Open the Bible to Acts 2. Say: "This is the place where we read about the first church. The people listened to Jesus' helpers tell about Jesus. Sometimes they met in churches. Sometimes they met in homes."
- Suggest: "Let's pretend guests are coming to our home to hear about Jesus." Guide children to sweep, dust, or pretend to cook a meal in preparation.
- As children work, talk about Jesus. Encourage volunteers to tell what they know about Jesus, too. Give suggestions as needed.
- Lead preschoolers to repeat the Bible verse with you.

## PLAY WITH DOLLHOUSE



*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: The First Church (Pack), dollhouse, furnishings, dolls, toy vehicles*

- As children play with the dollhouse, talk about visiting people at their homes. Ask: "Have you had a friend come to play at your house, or a family come for a meal?"
- Open the Bible to Acts 2. Tell about people going to homes to hear about Jesus. Show children the Story Picture as you tell the Bible story.
- Add: "The Bible tells us to let everyone know that God sent Jesus. You can tell people that God sent Jesus, too." Thank God for sending Jesus.

## MATCH BIBLE PICTURES

*Tools: several Bibles that include pictures of Jesus, Bible Matching Cards (Pack)*

- Lay the cards facedown near the Bibles.
- Invite a child to turn over two cards. If the Bible pictures match, keep them facing up. If they do not match, turn them facedown and choose two more cards.
- When all pictures have been matched, explain that Bibles may look different, but all tell about Jesus.
- Say: "Jesus' helpers told people about Jesus. The people were happy to learn about Jesus."
- Add: "Thank You, God, for the Bible that tells us about Jesus."
- Help preschoolers locate Acts 2 in the Bibles.

## PLAY INSTRUMENTS

*Tools: Bible, children's rhythm instruments, Enhanced CD*

- Play music from the Enhanced CD as girls and boys explore the sounds they can make with the rhythm instruments.
- Encourage children to exchange instruments and continue playing along with the music.
- Suggest singing a song to thank God. To the tune "Are You Sleeping?" sing:  
*God sent Jesus (repeat).  
Thank You, God (repeat).  
Thank You, God, for Jesus (repeat). Thank You, God (repeat).*
- Open the Bible to Acts 2 and say: "People sang songs to God. They thanked Him for His love and care. They thanked God for sending Jesus."
- Tell the Bible story in your own words.

## FIND A HIDDEN MESSAGE

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, October Bible Verse Markers (Enhanced CD), white glue, paper, crayons*

- Use white glue to print the Bible verse on plain paper for each child. Let paper dry before the session.
- Show the picture on the Activity Page to a child. Tell the Bible story briefly. Encourage the child to look at the picture again and recall details of the story.
- Tell the child she will discover a message when she draws on the paper. Say: "You can use your fingers to feel the letters. Drawing over the letters will show us the message."
- When the child finishes, read the message aloud. Say: "These words are in the Bible, too."
- Lead the child to open the Bible to the marker. Read the Bible verse together.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

People met together to learn about Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY

The First Church

Acts 2:41-47

*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Acts 2:36

### LEADER TIP!

Thank God for the Bible that helps us learn about Jesus.

### DRAW A HAPPY MURAL

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, long sheet of paper, crayons, washable markers, tape*

- Attach paper to the wall or floor. Display the Activity Page nearby.
- Ask: “What do you like to do with friends?” Suggest that a few children draw a picture of an activity with friends that makes them happy.
- As children work on the mural, say: “We read in the Bible about some happy people. They met together and were glad to learn about Jesus and His love for them.”
- Point to the Activity Page picture and add: “I am happy you came today. We can learn about Jesus while we’re together at church.”

### PLAY WITH TOY VEHICLES

*Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, small gift boxes, toy vehicles, painters’ tape or yarn*

- As children play with blocks or cars, open the Bible to Acts 2 and tell the Bible story briefly.
- Talk about the people going to the places where Jesus’ helpers taught. Ask: “Where are some places you might go where you could learn about Jesus?” Help children think of places.
- Guide preschoolers to make roads with blocks, tape, or yarn. Suggest building houses, churches, schools, or other buildings where people might hear about Jesus.
- Comment: “The Bible tells us to let everyone know God sent Jesus. You can tell a friend about Jesus wherever you are.”

### COOK A PRETEND MEAL

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: The First Church (Pack Item 5), toy dishes*

- Show children the Story Picture and point to the people. Say: “People met in churches and in homes to hear about Jesus. The people visited, ate, and prayed together.” Hold the Bible open to Acts 2 as you tell about the first church.

- Invite children to cook a pretend meal for a visitor. Talk about Jesus as the children work together.

## GET READY FOR CHURCH

*Tools: Bibles, dress-up clothes, nonbreakable mirror, paper plate, keys, chairs*

- Set two or four chairs together to look like a vehicle. Lay a paper plate on a front chair as a steering wheel.
- Suggest that children get ready for church by getting a Bible, getting dressed, and climbing into the “car” to drive to church.
- Say: “At church people learn about Jesus. We read about Jesus in the Bible. Thank You, God, for helpers at church who tell us about Jesus. Thank You, God, for the Bible.”

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD. Encourage children to move to the music.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Comment: “Songs can help us learn about Jesus. Let’s listen to a Bible story about people who were happy to hear about Jesus.”
- Say: “The Bible story is in the New Testament, in the Book of Acts.”
- Hold the Bible open in your lap as you recall today’s Bible story in your own way.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Invite children to take turns tossing a beanbag or crumpled paper into a bucket. Each time, direct the child to open the Bible to a marker placed at Acts 2:36. Read the Bible verse.
- Encourage children to repeat the Bible verse with you several times.

### PRAY

- Pray: “Thank You, God, for ears to hear about Jesus. Thank You, God, for hands to turn the pages in the Bible. Thank You for Jesus.”

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



## Session 6



# JESUS CAME TO HELP

## Acts 3:1-26

The action in Acts takes us quickly from one scene to the next. Fresh from the conversion of 3,000 people who trusted Christ for salvation, Peter and John were on their way to the temple. The opening chapters of Acts take place in Jerusalem, so it is not surprising that Peter and John, good Jewish believers, would be on their way to the temple to pray.

It was a very common practice among beggars to sit outside the temple and beg from those who were coming to pray. Those with ailments would not have been allowed inside the temple, so they sat as close to it as they were allowed to in order to beg for money. This particular scene took place just outside the gate called “Beautiful.” Jewish literature does not specifically name any of the temple gates “beautiful.” Early church historian Josephus posited that this was likely the Nicanor gate, a massive gate constructed of Corinthian bronze. The gate was said to have been so heavy it took about 20 men to move it.

Peter, gaining the attention of the beggar, who likely would have been surprised someone actually gave full attention to him, claimed nothing on earth did he have in his pockets to offer the beggar. However, what Peter did have was so much greater than even the gate the man sat under. As Peter declared through the powerful name of Christ, the man was healed. The man began to jump and praise God for his healing.

Peter began preaching again to the crowd who then put their full attention on him. As with his last sermon, Peter continued preaching about Jesus and that God sent Jesus to help people. Jesus came, the people rejected Him as the Christ (read verse 15 to see Peter’s bold words on this subject) and allowed Him to be crucified. Then Jesus was gloriously raised again by God. Peter shared the message of the gospel: repent and turn away from your sins and be forgiven. The people had rejected Jesus the Messiah, but God wanted His people to repent and follow Jesus. God calls us to repent of our sin and follow Jesus. Share the beautiful story of the gospel as you guide girls and boys to know Him.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God sent Jesus to help people.

### BIBLE STORY

Acts 3:1-26

### BIBLE VERSE

Acts 3:26

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Jesus established the church to continue what He began and to spread the good news all over the world.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Remember and say simple Bible words, phrases, and verses with Bible references.
- Understand that the Bible tells that God sent Jesus to earth.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

#### ► Decorate a card with heart-shaped stickers.

*Tools: Bible, thick paper to make a card, heart-shaped stickers, crayons or washable markers*

#### ► Work puzzles about Jesus.

*Tools: Bible, 2 or 3 wooden puzzles featuring Bible stories about Jesus*

#### ► Look at picture books about Jesus.

*Tools: Bible, age-suitable books featuring pictures of Jesus, Book: The Bible Says (Pack Item 24)*

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Acts 3 chronicles the early days of the first church and gives a glimpse into what life in that day looked like. Peter and John were bold to tell others about Jesus.
- God enabled Peter and John to participate in a healing miracle which healed a man who had never walked. The miracle led the restored man and many of those around him to begin to praise and worship God.
- Peter and John exemplified the two greatest commands Jesus identified for people: love God and love people. These commands perfectly summarize the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

- The Ten Commandments first dealt with people's relationship to God and how people should show their love for God and respond to Him. The other commandments focused on a person's relationship with other people and how to treat them. Look at Peter and John's example to learn how to relate to God and others.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

## TEXT TRUTH

God sent Jesus to help people.

## BIBLE VERSE

Acts 3:26

## LEADER TIP!

Help preschoolers know that a witness sees and hears something and knows it is true.

## LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

# PETER TALKED ABOUT JESUS

## Acts 3:1-26

*Peter and John had been at the temple to pray. While they were there, they saw a man who could not walk. Peter helped the man and told him about Jesus. Then the man stood up and began to walk and jump around!*

*People ran through the street, rushing to see Peter and John. The people were amazed at the things they had heard and seen.*

*Peter asked the people why they were surprised. He explained that he and John did not make the man well. Only Jesus could do that. Then Peter reminded the people how they had turned Jesus over to people who were against Him. "You are the ones who caused Jesus to be taken away. You tried to get rid of Jesus," Peter told them. "Jesus died for you. But God made Jesus alive again."*

*"John and I are witnesses of all this. We saw what you did. It is Jesus who made the man well and walk," Peter said again.*

*Then Peter explained that he knew the people had not understood what they were doing when they turned away from Jesus. But everything happened the way God planned, Peter told them. God said that Jesus would be born, help people, and take the blame for all the wrong things people did. And that was what God promised long ago.*

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*God sent [Jesus] to bless you. Acts 3:26*

Paraphrase:

*God sent Jesus to bless you. Acts 3:26*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- Give specific cleanup instructions as preschoolers finish Arrival Activities or Exploration Station activities.
- Play the Enhanced CD and encourage children to hop or jump to the Circle Time area. When children join you and are seated, say: “It’s fun to jump! Let’s hear a Bible story about a man who was happy he could jump.”

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Hold the Bible open to Acts 1 and say: “This part of the Bible is the Book of Acts. The Book of Acts tells about Jesus’ helpers. They told people about Jesus.”
- Turn to Acts 3 and tell the Bible story. Show children the Story Picture and help preschoolers recall the reason the man was happy.
- Explain: “God sent Jesus to help people. That’s what Peter told the people. Jesus helped the lame man walk.”
- Show children the Bible Verse Marker for today and read the words aloud. Prompt girls and boys to say the Bible verse with you.
- Explain that Jesus blesses people when He helps them.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles to the children. (If preschoolers brought Bibles, direct them to get their Bibles at this time.)
- Toss a beanbag to a child. Invite him to open his Bible to any page. Ask: “Who does the Bible tell us about?” (God and Jesus)
- Toss the beanbag to another child and repeat the question. Continue until everyone has had a turn.
- Comment: “God gave us the Bible to help us learn about Him and His Son, Jesus. The Bible tells us that God sent Jesus to help people.”

### PRAY

- Invite volunteers to say thank you to God for sending Jesus.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bibles
- beanbag
- Enhanced CD:  
October Bible Verse Markers

### PACK ITEM

- 6 Story Picture: Peter Talked About Jesus

## TEXT TRUTH

God sent Jesus to help people.



# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## BIBLE STORY

Peter Talked About Jesus

Acts 3:1-26

## BIBLE VERSE

Acts 3:26

## PACK ITEMS

6 Story Picture: Peter Talked About Jesus

31 Jesus Pictures

## LEADER TIP!

Offer both active and quiet activities in order to better meet the needs of all the children.

## WORK PUZZLES



*Tools: Bible, Life of Jesus Wooden Box Puzzles (LifeWay, 001051003), other puzzles, Activity Page, Enhanced CD*

- As children work puzzles, comment on the life of Jesus. Say: "Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to love people and help them. Jesus came to bless you."
- Lead preschoolers to tell something they remember about Jesus. As you talk about Jesus, open the Bible to Acts. Mention that today's Bible story is from the Book of Acts.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Tell the Bible story.
- Play the Enhanced CD and encourage preschoolers to sing or clap to the music.

## EXPLORE WAYS TO MOVE



*Tools: Bible, tape or yarn*

- Lay yarn or tape on the floor to create a path around the room. Open the Bible to Acts 3 and place the Bible at the end of the path.
- Encourage a child to move along the path, changing the way her body moves. The child might hop, crawl, tiptoe, walk backwards, slide, or move sideways.
- When the child reaches the end of the path, show her the open Bible. Say: "The Bible tells about a man who could not walk. He could not hop. He could not tiptoe." Tell the Bible story in your own way.

## DECORATE A PINWHEEL



*Tools: Bible, Pinwheel Pattern (Enhanced CD), pushpin, unsharpened pencil with eraser (one per child), glue sticks, crayons, washable markers*

- Print a Pinwheel Pattern for each child. Assemble one pinwheel before the session as a sample. (See instructions on Enhanced CD item.)
- Invite children to decorate both sides of their pinwheel. Read the Bible words printed on the pattern.
- Tell the Bible story as children work.
- Pin the child's pinwheel to the eraser of an unsharpened pencil. Press the pin in firmly.
- Guide the child to spin her pinwheel.
- Repeat the Bible words.

## MATCH PICTURES & SHOES



*Tools: Bible, Jesus Pictures (Pack), large bag or pillowcase, four pairs of shoes in various styles or sizes*

- Hide the shoes in the pillowcase. Lay the Jesus picture cards facedown.
- When a child shows interest, encourage her to turn over cards to find matching pictures of Jesus. When all the cards are matched, comment that God sent Jesus to help people.
- Open the Bible to Acts 3 and tell the Bible story.
- Say: "Shoes remind me of the man who could not walk. Only Jesus could make the man well."
- Invite a child to find matching shoes by feeling them in the pillowcase.

## MAKE A NECKLACE



*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Peter Talked About Jesus (Pack), yarn, plastic straws cut into 1-inch lengths, large alphabet beads, index card, marker*

- Print the name *Jesus* on the card to help children match alphabet beads to the letters in Jesus' name.
- Open the Bible to the Book of Acts. Point to the title. Say: "This is the Book of Acts. This book tells about people who loved Jesus."
- Show children the Story Picture. Help them recall details of the Bible story. Turn to Acts 3 and point to the story passage.
- Guide children to make necklaces by threading plastic straw pieces on yarn. Help children locate alphabet beads to spell the name *Jesus*.
- Remark: "Acts, Chapter 3, Verse 26, says that God sent Jesus to bless you."

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

God sent Jesus to help people.

### BIBLE STORY

Peter Talked About Jesus

Acts 3:1-26

*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Acts 3:26

### SING AND MOVE

*Tools: Bible*

- Invite preschoolers to copy your movements and sing along with you.
- To a made-up tune sing:  
*I will \*clap my hands and sing about Jesus. (repeat) I will clap my hands and sing, (repeat) I will clap my hands and sing about Jesus. I will clap and sing.*  
Substitute: *reach up high, nod my head, tap my toes, pat my knees, wave my hands.*
- After singing and moving, sit down and open the Bible to Acts 3. Say: “Good job! You sang about Jesus. You moved your body. Our Bible story is about someone who moved his body after Jesus made him well.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words.

### BUILD A TEMPLE WITH BLOCKS

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Peter Talked About Jesus (Pack Item 6), wooden unit blocks or plastic interlocking blocks*

- Show preschoolers the Story Picture. Then open the Bible to Acts 3 and state: “This is the Book of Acts. Here is where we read about Peter and John telling the man about Jesus.”
- As you talk about Peter and John going to the temple to pray, children may want to build a temple. Prop the Story Picture for them to see.
- Say: “The people near the temple learned about Jesus. We learn about Jesus at church. God sent Jesus to bless us. Thank You, God, for Jesus.”

### MAKE A THANK-YOU CARD

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, heavyweight paper, crayons, washable markers*

- Engage preschoolers in a conversation. Ask: “Who tells you about Jesus? Your parents? Teachers? Friends?” Listen to children’s responses.
- Fold a sheet of paper in half to make a card. Suggest that a child decorate the card to thank someone for telling him about Jesus. Help the child print his name on the card.

- As the child works, open the Bible to Acts 3:26 and read the Bible verse.
- Look at the picture on the Activity Page and review the Bible story.

## TAKE CARE OF A BABY DOLL

*Tools: Bible, 2 baby dolls, blankets, empty baby food containers, baby spoons*

- Encourage children to feed or rock the dolls. Talk about ways families take care of babies, including taking them to church to hear about Jesus.
- Open the Bible to Acts 3 and say: “We read in the Bible that Peter and John taught about Jesus.” Tell the Bible story in your own words. Add: “God sent Jesus to help people. Jesus is the One who can help us.”
- Suggest telling the baby dolls about Jesus. Prompt girls and boys to repeat the Bible verse with you as they take care of the dolls.

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- With children standing in a circle, direct each child in turn to jump three times and count 1, 2, 3.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “Today we heard about a man who was happy that Jesus loved him and made him well. Let’s think about Jesus.”
- Toss a beanbag to each child in turn and encourage him to tell something he knows about Jesus. Give every child a turn to talk.
- Hold up the Activity Page and point to the words and shapes on

the back. Comment: “These words remind us why God sent Jesus. Let’s say them together.”

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Acts 3:26 and say the Bible verse with the children. Point to the words on the Activity Page as children say the verse another time.

### PRAY

- Thank God for sending Jesus to help and bless us. Thank God for the Bible that tells us about Jesus.

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



## Session 7



# EVERYONE CAN HELP

## Acts 6:1-7

With the fast moving pace of Acts, we're not sure how much time had passed, but we do know that the church had grown to a significant size. Christianity took a step forward as we read that Jews, who were not from Jerusalem but from Greece, became a part of the church. The church, it appears, was being true to Jesus' charge in Acts 1:8 to move from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria, and ultimately to the ends of the earth. This newfound growth presented a problem of equality within the church.

One group of widows seemed to be overlooked in the "daily distribution." It is likely that the apostles, identified in verse 2 as "the Twelve," did not intentionally overlook the crowd who needed service, but were so busy with other tasks that the widows' needs were being neglected. Once the issue was identified, the Twelve readily charged the church to select some of their own members to make sure the distribution happened as needed. Most commentators agree that this daily distribution included the funds for the widows to go and buy the food that they needed. In essence, the apostles, in order to focus solely on the preaching of the word, turned over the benevolence responsibilities of the church to its members.

The issue of service in the local church is one that is still important to church life. No matter how your local congregation decides to participate, the truth is that God wants people in the local church to help meet others' needs. Service in the local church can take on many varied faces and forms and everyone has an important part in God's church. Everyone in the church should serve others in some practical way. What service looks like for your church and the children you teach may be very different from what it looks like in the church right down the street. Be an encourager of service and model for boys and girls what service through the church can look like for them.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God wants people at church to help.

### BIBLE STORY

Acts 6:1-7

### BIBLE VERSE

Galatians 6:10

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Jesus established the church to continue what He began and to spread the good news all over the world.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Know there are two main parts of the Bible: the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- Begin to understand how Bible verses apply to his life.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

#### ► Draw pictures of favorite foods.

*Tools: Bible, white paper plates, crayons, washable markers*

#### ► Sort items into sets of seven.

*Tools: Bible; large container; sets of seven items such as paper clips, large buttons, crayons, small silk flowers, puzzle pieces, and small wooden blocks*

#### ► Feed baby dolls.

*Tools: Bible, baby spoon and bowl, bib, baby bottle, empty baby food boxes*

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- The rapid expansion of the church led to a few circumstances the church did not expect. The Twelve were busy tending to the believer's needs and preaching and teaching God's Word. This presented a unique new need to meet.
- The early church enjoyed meeting together and worked hard to take care of those in the congregation who had significant needs. One group felt left out a bit and the Twelve suggested the church choose men to help serve them.
- The Twelve needed to focus on the preaching and teaching of the Word. Gathering together for worship was important to the people of God and had been since early in Israel's history.
- God told Moses to build a tabernacle—a movable structure that housed the Spirit of God. God gave instructions for appropriate worship and, ever since, believers have gathered to honor and glorify God.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

## TEXT TRUTH

God wants people at church to help.

## BIBLE VERSE

Galatians 6:10

## LEADER TIP!

Expect the best from each child. A preschooler usually lives up to others' expectations.

## LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

# HELPERS IN THE CHURCH

## Acts 6:1-7

*More and more people were going to the church in Jerusalem. The church helpers were busy teaching people about Jesus.*

*Some of the people in the church needed help. They did not have enough food to eat.*

*The church helpers did not have time to take care of everyone who needed help. They thought about this problem, then decided on a plan. The church leaders knew that they needed special helpers to work with them.*

*The church leaders called all the people in the church together. They said, "Choose seven men. They can take food to the people who need it. Then we will have more time to teach and pray."*

*All the people at church thought this was a good plan. They chose Stephen, Philip, and five other men. Then the church helpers and leaders prayed with the seven men.*

*Stephen, Philip, and the five other men took food and money to everyone who needed it. The church leaders continued teaching and praying.*

*The people at church knew it was good to work together for the good of everyone.*

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*Let us work for the good of all. Galatians 6:10*

Paraphrase:

*Work for the good of everyone. Galatians 6:10*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- As preschoolers sit in the Circle Time area, say: “Thank you for helping when you are at church.” Recall things preschoolers do to help.
- Say: “Let’s play a helping game!” Give a pair of preschoolers a plastic tray. Lay a tennis ball in the center of the tray. Direct the children to hold the tray and balance the ball as they walk to the door and back.
- Give all the children turns to pair up and work together.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “God wants people at church to help. You helped your friend carry the ball. You do other things in our class to help. Let’s listen to a Bible story about some people in Bible times who helped at church.”
- Open the Bible to Acts 6 and tell the Bible story.
- Show children the Story Picture. Ask a child to come to the front and point to the men helping.
- Encourage volunteers to recall how the seven men helped church friends.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles to the children. (If preschoolers brought Bibles, direct them to get their Bibles at this time.)
- Encourage children to open their Bibles near the beginning of the Bible. Explain that the front part of the Bible is called the Old Testament. Then direct children to turn to the back part of the Bible. Say: “This part of the Bible is the New Testament. In the New Testament we read about Jesus.”
- Toss a beanbag to a child. Invite him to open your Bible to today’s Bible marker. Read the Bible verse aloud and encourage the child to repeat the words with you.
- Continue until everyone has a turn to find the marker.

### PRAY

- Lead volunteers to pray, thanking God for people who are willing to help their church.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- several Bibles
- beanbag
- plastic tray, tennis balls
- Enhanced CD:  
October Bible Verse Markers

### PACK ITEM

- 7 Story Picture: Helpers in the Church

## TEXT TRUTH

God wants people at church to help.

## BIBLE STORY

Helpers in the Church  
Acts 6:1-7

## BIBLE VERSE

Galatians 6:10

## PACK ITEMS

7 Story Picture: Helpers in the Church  
24 Book: *The Bible Says*

## LEADER TIP!

Commend children for every helpful action you observe today. God wants people at church to help, and preschoolers can help in many ways, too.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## MATCH LIDS TO CONTAINERS



*Tools: Bible; Activity Page; empty plastic food containers with lids (such as yogurt, cottage cheese, potato salad, sour cream, chip dip containers)*

- Put the containers with the Activity Page. Pile the lids separately nearby.
- Lead children to identify the various containers. Talk about foods they enjoy eating. Then suggest that children match lids to the correct containers.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page. Say: "Some people in a Bible-times church were hungry. People in their church helped the hungry people." Continue telling the Bible story.
- Open the Bible to Galatians 6:10 and read the Bible verse.

## WASH DISHES



*Tools: Bible, toy dishes, dish towels, plastic dishpan, soapy water*

- As one child washes dishes, invite another child to dry the dishes.
- Talk about ways people at your church can work together. Comment: "You are working together. You are helpers at church."
- Open the Bible to Acts 6. Say: "This book in the Bible is the Book of Acts. We read in Acts about seven helpers at church who took food and money to everyone who needed it."
- Tell the Bible story as children continue to wash and dry dishes.

**BUILD WITH FRIENDS**

*Tools: Bible, wooden or plastic blocks, toy trucks or wagons, two colorful paper napkins*

- Place napkins in the Bible to mark today's Bible story and the Bible verse.
- Invite a child to help you open the Bible to a napkin. Comment that the napkin reminds you of a Bible story. Point to the passage as you tell the Bible story.
- Encourage the child to work with a friend to build roads and houses. Suggest driving toy trucks to the houses to deliver food to friends.
- As children play, commend them for working together. Say: "Philip and Stephen worked together to take food to people who were hungry. Everyone at church can help. You are helping your friend at church build with blocks."

**PLAY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

*Tools: Bible, musical instruments, Enhanced CD*

- Invite a preschooler to play a musical instrument as he listens to music from the Enhanced CD. When the music ends, encourage the child to exchange instruments with someone. Play the music again.
- Comment: "You are working together to make music. You are helping each other enjoy different musical instruments." Open the Bible to Galatians 6:10 and read the Bible verse aloud.
- As children continue to play instruments, use the tune "Are You Sleeping?" to sing:  
*Are you working? (Repeat)*  
*Together? (Repeat)*  
*We will work together.*  
*(Repeat)*  
*Yes, we will. (Repeat)*

**PREPARE A GIFT**

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Helpers in the Church (Pack), Book: The Bible Says (Pack), water bottles, happy face or flower stickers*

- Hold the Bible open to Acts 6 as you tell today's Bible story in your own words.
- Talk about ways people in your church help others. Encourage preschoolers to think about ways children can help, too.
- Suggest decorating water bottles as gifts for friends at church. While children apply stickers to the bottles, show them the Story Picture.
- Say: "The Bible tells us to work for the good of everyone. You are helping others when you give them water to drink."
- Read the book to a child during a quiet moment. Lead the child to repeat the Bible verses.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

God wants people at church to help.

### BIBLE STORY

Helpers in the Church  
Acts 6:1-7

*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Galatians 6:10

### BOWL OVER BLOCKS

*Tools: Bible, 7 tall wooden blocks (or plastic beverage bottles), large ball*

- Guide a preschooler to count the blocks as she sets them up in a bowling pattern. Comment: “You have seven blocks. Long ago a church in Bible times chose seven men to help their church friends.”
- While the child rolls the ball to knock over blocks, open the Bible to Acts 6. Say: “This is the Book of Acts. This is where we learn about Stephen and Philip and the other men who helped the hungry people.”
- Find Galatians 6:10 and read the Bible verse to the child. Add: “You worked to set up the blocks. You are a helper at church.”

### COUNT AND SORT

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, seven plastic bowls, assorted colors of pom-poms, large tweezers or small tongs*

- Invite a child to sort pom-poms by color or size. Guide her to grab a pom-pom with the tweezers and drop it in a bowl. Ask the child to count the bowls. Remark: “Seven bowls. That reminds me of seven men who were chosen to help at church. God wants church friends to help.”
- Hold the Bible open to Acts 6 and tell the Bible story in your own way.
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page and ask questions about the picture to recall the Bible story.

### DECORATE A BANNER

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Helpers in the Church (Pack Item 7), long sheet of paper, crayons or washable markers*

- Print the statement *Thank You, God, for helpers at church*, at the top of the banner. Invite preschoolers to use the crayons to draw pictures on the paper. Perhaps they might draw a church helper or friend.
- Show children the Story Picture. Ask boys and girls if they can tell who the people are. Recall that the Bible tells the names of the people. Turn to Acts 6 and show the story passage to the children.

- As the children draw, say: “You are helping decorate a banner. You are working together to show thanks to God for helpers at our church.”

## WORK PUZZLES

*Tools: Bible, 2 or 3 puzzles showing food or people working together*

- Lay the Bible, opened to Acts 6, next to the puzzles.
- As children work puzzles, summarize today’s Bible story. Comment that seven men worked together to take food and money to hungry people.
- Turn to Galatians 6:10 and read the Bible verse to the preschoolers. Say: “This Bible verse tells us to work together to help everyone. You are working together to complete the puzzles.”
- Lead children to repeat the Bible verse and reference a few times.

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Encourage preschoolers to work together to tidy the room and go to Circle Time.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask questions to help children recall the Bible story:  
*Why did some people in the Jerusalem church need help? (They did not have enough food to eat.)*  
*How many special helpers were chosen? (Seven)*  
*How did the men work together for the good of everyone? (They took food and money to everyone who needed it.)*

- Show children the Story Picture to help them think about the story.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place a marker in a Bible at Galatians 6:10. Invite each child to take a turn opening the Bible to the marker. Read the Bible verse aloud, then lead children to repeat it a few times.

### PRAY

- Thank God for helpers at church.
- Thank God for opportunities for people in your church to work together for the good of everyone.

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



## Session 8



# TELL THE MESSAGE

## Acts 8:26-35

With rapid expansion of the church still being the setting, we are introduced again to Philip, one of those chosen to serve in Acts 6. As touched on last week, we see the expansion of the church had moved outside Jerusalem. Acts 8:5 tells us that Philip went to a city in Samaria in order to preach the gospel. Philip's next action would be the beginning of God's mandate to take the gospel "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Philip was sent by an angel's message south toward Gaza. Interestingly, Gaza was the southernmost city in the region and lay roughly 50 miles from Jerusalem. All that lay beyond the city of Gaza was a vast desert leading to Egypt. Philip saw in his travel a chariot and was further directed to run up beside it. In the chariot Philip found an official of Ethiopia reading a scroll aloud. The man in the chariot was similar to a later Acts convert, Cornelius (see Acts 10), who was a God follower, but not a convert to the Way.

Philip heard the official read the words of Isaiah 53. Philip spoke only to ask if the man understood what words he was reading. When the man answered that he did not understand and invited Philip into the chariot, Philip began in the same passage and told the full story of redemption through the person of Jesus Christ. Following the official's full conversion and subsequent baptism, he headed back to Ethiopia carrying the gospel of Christ with him. The message of the gospel was on its way to "the ends of the earth."

Philip is a great example of the command to tell others about Jesus. (See Matthew 28:19-20.) Philip reminds us to always be ready to tell people about Jesus. Philip was given an opportunity to share the message of Christ some 50 miles from home. Philip was likely involved in other ministry opportunities. However, he was willing to go and preach because he understood the importance of sharing the message of salvation with everyone. As you share with boys and girls today this beautiful story of God's message of salvation, encourage them to tell others about Jesus wherever they go.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

Be ready to tell people about Jesus.

### BIBLE STORY

Acts 8:26-35

### BIBLE VERSE

2 Timothy 4:2

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Jesus established the church to continue what He began and to spread the good news all over the world.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to pronounce the names of the books of the Bible.
- Begin to understand how Bible verses apply to his life.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

#### ► Drive toy cars on ramps and roads.

*Tools: Bible, several toy cars, pieces of thick cardboard cut in various sizes*

#### ► Draw on sandpaper.

*Tools: Bible, crayons, sheets of sandpaper*

#### ► Match pictures of Jesus or Bibles.

*Tools: Bible, Bible Matching Cards (Pack Item 22), Jesus Pictures (Pack Item 31)*

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Acts 8 shows that with Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection, hope in Jesus became the constant message.
- Philip spread the message of hope in Jesus. God led Philip to share the message of hope through Christ with an Ethiopian official who then took that message back to those with whom he lived. The gospel message of hope for the forgiveness of sin was spreading.
- Sin is something that has existed ever since Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the garden.
- While Moses was on Mt. Sinai speaking with God, the Israelites were engaged in sinful practices below. When he was instructed by God to confront the people, Moses obeyed and called them to repentance.
- Sin is evidenced in many other stories in Scripture and still exists today. Jesus' sacrifice paid perfectly the penalty for sin. The message of hope in Jesus remains the answer for sin.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

## TEXT TRUTH

Be ready to tell people about Jesus.

## BIBLE VERSE

2 Timothy 4:2

## LEADER TIP!

Talk about Jesus at every opportunity and share the message about Jesus with a child who may know nothing about Him.

## LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

# PHILIP TOLD ABOUT JESUS

## Acts 8:26-35

*Philip was one of Jesus' disciples (helpers). He traveled with other disciples to tell people the good news about Jesus.*

*One day Philip traveled down a road toward the desert. In the distance Philip saw someone riding in a chariot.*

*The man in the chariot was an important official in his country. He had been to Jerusalem to worship.*

*Philip ran to the man's chariot. He saw and heard the man reading from a Bible scroll. Philip knew the man was reading words that Isaiah had written many years before.*

*"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked the man.*

*The man looked at Philip. "How can I understand unless someone helps me?" the man answered.*

*So the man invited Philip to sit in the chariot with him. The man asked Philip, "Who is Isaiah writing about? Is he writing about himself or another person?"*

*Philip then explained that the words Isaiah wrote long ago were about Jesus.*

*The man learned the good news about Jesus.*

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*Preach the word. 2 Timothy 4:2*

Paraphrase:

*Be ready to tell the message about Jesus. 2 Timothy 4:2*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- Hide several Bibles around the room.
- Play the Enhanced CD. As children make their way to the circle, invite them to pretend to drive a vehicle. Direct preschoolers to “park” their vehicles in the Circle Time area.
- Ask preschoolers in what type of vehicle they rode to church. Comment that some people may walk to church or ride a bus or train.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- After children respond, open a Bible to Acts 8. Say: “In the Book of Acts we read a story about a man who traveled in a chariot. Do you know what a chariot is?” Show children the Story Picture (Pack) to give them an idea.
- Say: “The man riding in the chariot was reading from a Bible scroll. Let’s hear more about the man.”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. Then show preschoolers the Story Picture again. Ask questions about different parts of the picture to help children recall details of the Bible story.
- Help children know that the words Isaiah wrote about Jesus are in the Bibles we read.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Invite preschoolers to look for the hidden Bibles. When all the Bibles are retrieved, ask teachers in the group to help children locate 2 Timothy 4:2. Say the Bible verse.
- Remark: “The Bible says to be ready to tell people about Jesus. Philip was ready to tell about Jesus.”
- To a made-up tune sing:  
*Tell people about Jesus, about Jesus, about Jesus. Tell people about Jesus. Jesus is God’s Son.*

### PRAY

- Pray, thanking God for the Bible and His Son Jesus. Thank God for giving people the Bible to help them know about God and Jesus.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bibles
- Enhanced CD

### PACK ITEM

8 Story Picture: Philip Told About Jesus

## TEXT TRUTH

Be ready to tell people about Jesus.

## BIBLE STORY

Philip Told About Jesus  
Acts 8:26-35

## BIBLE VERSE

2 Timothy 4:2

## PACK ITEMS

8 Story Picture: Philip Told About Jesus  
27 Word Cards  
28 Puzzle: Philip Helped  
29 Bible Verse Scroll

## SAND DOUGH RECIPE

1 cup clean play sand  
½ cup cornstarch  
1 tsp. cream of tartar  
½ cup hot water

- Combine ingredients in an old pot. Add hot water.
- Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until thickened.
- Knead to desired consistency.
- To keep dough moist, wrap in damp paper towel and store in airtight container until ready for use.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## PLAY WITH SAND DOUGH



*Tools: Bible, sand dough*

- Give each child a ball of sand dough. As the child rolls and pounds the dough, mention that the road on which Philip traveled was sandy.
- Say: “While Philip walked down the dusty desert road, he saw a chariot coming toward him.”
- Continue telling the Bible story in your own words.
- Open the Bible to Acts 8 and point to the story passage. Then turn to Isaiah 53:3-8 and remark that this is the passage the man in the chariot was reading.
- Say: “Philip was ready to tell the message about Jesus.”

## RIDE IN A BOX



*Tools: Read to Me Bible (LifeWay) or other picture Bible, large cardboard box, rope or old necktie*

- Tie the rope to the box to make “reins.” Place the Bible inside the box.
- Help a child climb into the box. Ask: “Where shall we go? Hold the reins as the horse pulls your chariot.”
- Pull the box slowly around the room. As the child rides, suggest he look in the Bible for a picture of Philip.
- Stop the “chariot” and help the preschooler locate Acts 8 in the Bible. Summarize the Bible story.

### DECORATE A BIBLE SCROLL



*Tools: Bible, Bible Verse Scroll (Pack), unsharpened pencils, ribbon or elastic hair bands; crayons or markers; tape*

- Duplicate the scroll pattern to have one for each child. Prepare a sample Bible scroll before class and tie it with ribbon.
- Invite a child to open your Bible scroll. Read the Bible verse to her. Then invite the child to decorate a paper to make her scroll.
- Open the Bible to 2 Timothy 4:2 and read the Bible verse. Say: "These are the words printed on your Bible scroll."
- Tell about the man reading the Bible scroll as he traveled in his chariot.
- Explain: "Philip helped the man know that the Bible words told about Jesus."

### FIND HIDDEN LETTERS



*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Philip Told About Jesus (Pack), shallow pan, clean playground sand, magnetic letters, Word Cards (Pack), metal pan*

- Display the Word Cards next to the metal pan. Hide the letters in the sand.
- Direct a child to search in the sand to find letters. Guide him to put the letters on the metal pan. Review the letters, then use them to create words.
- Read the words aloud. Say: "These are important words from our Bible story."
- Open the Bible to Acts 8 and tell today's Bible story.
- Show the child the Story Picture. Say: "The man was happy that Philip told him the good news about Jesus."

### MATCH PUZZLE SHAPES



*Tools: Bible, sandpaper strips, Activity Page, Puzzle: Philip Helped (Pack)*

- Cut various grades of sandpaper into wide strips. Then cut each strip into two pieces, using wavy, zigzag, diagonal, or step patterns. Shuffle the strips and put them next to the Bible and Activity Page.
- Invite a child to compare the grades of sandpaper, then challenge him to fit pieces together. Relate the sandy texture to desert conditions.
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page. Point to the desert.
- While another preschooler works the puzzle picture, tell the Bible story. Remark that Philip was ready to go anywhere to tell people about Jesus.

## **NEXT HOUR** (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### **OPTIONS**

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### **TEXT TRUTH**

Be ready to tell people about Jesus.

### **BIBLE STORY**

Philip Told About Jesus  
Acts 8:26-35

*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### **BIBLE VERSE**

2 Timothy 4:2

### **BUILD A ROAD**

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Philip Told About Jesus (Pack Item 8), wooden blocks, toy vehicles, large textured floor mat or brown wrapping paper*

- Spread the mat or paper on the floor and suggest that it is a sandy desert. Tell boys and girls to lay blocks end to end to make roadways over the desert.
- As preschoolers construct the roadways and drive vehicles, tell about Philip walking down a desert road.
- Show children the Story Picture as you tell the Bible story.

### **TALK THROUGH TUBES**

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, cardboard tubes (one per child), colorful stickers, masking tape*

- Invite a child to decorate a tube. After he finishes, put masking tape around both openings to provide stability.
- Open the Bible to 2 Timothy 4:2. Say the Bible verse. Then tell the preschooler to repeat the verse as he talks through the tube.
- Comment: “You can tell people about Jesus. That’s what Philip did. Can you walk to a friend in the room and tell her about Jesus?”
- Show the preschooler the picture of Philip on the Activity Page.

### **WORK PUZZLES ABOUT JESUS**

*Tools: Bible, Puzzle: Philip Helped (Pack Item 28), puzzles featuring Jesus, Story Picture: Philip Told About Jesus (Pack Item 8)*

- Compare the puzzle picture to today’s Story Picture. Mention that we do not know how Bible-times people looked, but people draw pictures of them to help us think about the Bible people.
- Encourage a child to work the picture puzzle. A friend may work a wooden puzzle as well. Relate the pictures to today’s emphasis on telling people about Jesus.

- Open the Bible to the Book of Isaiah. Say: “The man in the chariot was reading from the Book of Isaiah. The man learned about Jesus when he read the Bible words.”

## MATCH BIBLES TO OUTLINES

*Tools: several Bibles, poster board, pencil, black marker*

- Lay the Bibles on the poster board and draw around them with a pencil to create outlines. Draw over the outlines with the marker.
- Stack the Bibles next to the poster board. Invite a child to examine the various Bibles, then match them to their outlines on the poster.
- Remark that all Bibles tell about Jesus. Open a Bible and find the Book of Acts. Then turn to 2 Timothy 4:2. Read the Bible verse, then help the child repeat it.

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Invite children to move slowly to the Circle Time area by taking soft, slow, giant steps.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “You did a good job moving slowly. In our Bible story, a man in a chariot moved slowly enough for Philip to join him.”
- Show children the Story Picture, then ask questions to help them recall the Bible story.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Cut several colors of paper in half

and tape each half to a Bible. Give each child a Bible.

- Say: “Everyone with a red paper on his Bible, please change places.” Continue naming colors until everyone has changed places. Occasionally, say: “Everyone holding a Bible, change places.”
- Ask teachers in the circle to help children locate the Book of Acts, then find the Old Testament and the New Testament sections.

### PRAY

- Pray: “Thank You, God, for the Bible and for the message of Jesus.”

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



## Session 9



# LOVE JESUS

## Acts 9:1-20

Saul, a man introduced at the end of Acts 7 and in the early verses of Acts 8, was in violent opposition to “the Way” (see John 14:6)—followers of Jesus spreading the gospel. Saul’s main aim was to eradicate the message of Christ, and he carried with him legal documents that gave him the right to imprison those who were sharing this message. Saul believed that he was in the right and that those of “the Way” were blaspheming. Saul was a Jewish Rabbi and had no intention of letting this message get out of hand.

Saul took his papers and headed toward Damascus, a city about 175 miles northeast of Jerusalem, a good six days walk. As Saul neared the city he had an encounter that would change the course of his life. A blinding light followed by a voice from heaven surely would have been a certain sign to Saul that the message he heard had come straight from God. It is curious that Saul took the time to question the origin, but perhaps he wanted to be certain from Whom the message came. When confronted with the risen Savior, Saul stopped talking and began to act. He, along with those who witnessed the events, finished their journey and entered Damascus with a different purpose this time.

Ananias, a disciple in Damascus, was familiar with Saul and his persecution. When asked to go and visit Saul, Ananias was obviously a little hesitant. Ananias, in response to the Holy Spirit’s lead, found Saul and prayed for him to receive his sight. Saul, with restored sight, got up, was baptized, ate some food, and immediately went out preaching Jesus.

God had a plan for Saul and His plan was for Saul to tell people about Jesus. Saul was not commanded to tell just any people; Saul was chosen to tell the Gentiles and others about Jesus. Saul’s commission began the worldwide explosion of the gospel that continues today. Jesus wants people to know and love Him, and we have the responsibility to take that message to others. Challenge kids in your class this week to realize they can also be involved in taking the message of Jesus to others.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

Jesus wants people to know and love Him.

### BIBLE STORY

Acts 9:1-20

### BIBLE VERSE

Romans 1:16

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

Jesus established the church to continue what He began and to spread the good news all over the world.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Know that the Bible is a book that people use at church and home.
- Begin to understand how Bible verses apply to his life.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

▶ **Draw with glow-in-the-dark crayons or neon chalk.**

*Tools: Bible, paper, glow-in-the-dark crayons or neon chalk*

▶ **Make a people picture collage.**

*Tools: Bible, magazine pictures of people, clear contact plastic taped to a table (sticky side up), tape*

▶ **Move through an obstacle course.**

*Tools: Bible; obstacles such as classroom chair, puzzle, block, large toy car, baby doll, and other items*

- ▶ After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Saul was a man who thought his persecution of those who believed in Jesus was the will of God. However, God made it very clear that what Saul was engaged in was not at all God's will.
- God's plan for Saul was to be a messenger of the gospel of Christ to those in Israel as well as the Gentiles—those who were not Jews.
- Following his conversion, Saul became a faithful servant and follower of Christ. Led through the rest of his life by the Holy Spirit, Saul faithfully followed the Spirit's lead.
- God led the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. Moses had direct communication with God through the tabernacle that had been built. Once completed, God dwelt among the people in the tabernacle.
- God's Spirit leads and dwells in His people today.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

## TEXT TRUTH

Jesus wants people to know and love Him.

## BIBLE VERSE

Romans 1:16

## LEADER TIP!

Your actions speak louder than words. Bring your Bible to church and use it with the children. Make Bibles available to preschoolers.

Be excited as you tell the Bible story or talk about Jesus.

## LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

# SAUL LEARNED ABOUT JESUS

## Acts 9:1-20

*Saul did not like people who loved Jesus. He found ways to cause trouble for the people.*

*One day Saul was traveling to a town. A bright light suddenly flashed around him. Saul was afraid. He could not see! Saul fell to the ground.*

*Saul heard a voice. "Why are you hurting Me?" the voice asked.*

*Saul asked, "Who are You?"*

*The voice answered, "I am Jesus. Now get up and go to the city. You will hear what to do next."*

*Other people with Saul were surprised. They had heard the voice, too.*

*So Saul hurried to the town and waited.*

*A man who lived in the town loved God and knew about the wonderful things Jesus had done. The man went to the house where Saul was staying. He found Saul and put his hands on Saul.*

*"Brother, Jesus sent me to you. Jesus is with you."*

*Then Jesus helped Saul see again.*

*What a surprise for Saul! Before this, Saul did not love Jesus. Now he did. Saul went with the disciples to the synagogues and preached, "Jesus is the Son of God!"*

## BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

*I am not ashamed of the gospel. Romans 1:16*

Paraphrase:

*The good news about Jesus is for everyone. Romans 1:16*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- As preschoolers make their way to Circle Time, clap your hands to different beats. Make some claps slow and some fast. Encourage children to clap their hands along with the beat.
- Say: “Thank you. You did a good job following the beat. You listened carefully.”
- Continue: “Our Bible story is about someone who listened carefully, too.”

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Acts 9. Tell the children the Bible story is from the Book of Acts, Chapter 9.
- Tell the Bible story in your own way.
- Show children the Story Picture. Point out features of the picture to help girls and boys remember details of the Bible story. Pass the Story Picture around the circle for each child to examine.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place the five Bible markers for October in your Bible at their correct locations.
- Hold the closed Bible out to each child in turn. Invite each child to choose a Bible marker and open the Bible to the marker. Read the Bible verse aloud and prompt the child to repeat the Bible verse for the group to hear.
- Use the blue background Gameboard (Pack) and relate each picture to Jesus.

### PRAY

- Say: “This week’s Bible verse tells us that the good news about Jesus is for everyone. The good news about Jesus is for us, too.”
- Encourage volunteers to pray. End the prayer time by thanking God for sending His Son, Jesus. Thank God for Jesus’ love. Pray for the children.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD:  
October Bible Verse Markers

### PACK ITEMS

- 9 Story Picture: Saul Learned About Jesus
- 26 Gameboards

## TEXT TRUTH

Jesus wants people to know and love Him.

## BIBLE STORY

Saul Learned About Jesus  
Acts 9:1-20

## BIBLE VERSE

Romans 1:16

## PACK ITEMS

- 5 Story Picture: The First Church
- 6 Story Picture: Peter Talked About Jesus
- 7 Story Picture: Helpers in the Church
- 8 Story Picture: Philip Told About Jesus
- 9 Story Picture: Saul Learned About Jesus
- 26 Gameboards
- 30 Bible Story Clue Cards
- 31 Jesus Pictures

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## PLAY BIBLE STORY GAMES

*Tools: Bible, Gameboards (Pack), Bible Story Clue Cards (Pack), October Story Pictures (Pack)*

- Lay the gameboard with the blue background faceup. Fasten the spinner to this side.
- As children flick the spinner and locate the matching Story Picture, review that Bible story.
- Challenge boys and girls to use the Bible Story Clue Cards as another way to recall Bible stories from the Book of Acts.
- Comment: "The Book of Acts is about the people in the very first churches who loved Jesus and told other people about Him."
- Help children find the Book of Acts in the Bible.

## USE A FLASHLIGHT

*Tools: Bible, small flashlight, index cards, glow-in-the-dark crayons, tent or sheet, tape*

- Use glow-in-the-dark crayons to print Bible story words such as *Saul*, *Jesus*, *city*, and *light* on cards. Tape the cards inside a tent or a table covered with a sheet.
- Guide a child to shine the flashlight on the cards, then switch off the flashlight to see the words glow in the dark. Read the words to the child. Relate them to the Bible story.
- Invite the child to draw on additional cards with the crayons as you tell the Bible story in your own words.

**DRIVE TOY VEHICLES**

*Tools: Bible, several hand-size vehicles, toy traffic signs (opt.), masking tape, plastic people figures, travel picture postcards (opt.), plastic cups*

- Use the tape to make roads on the floor. Put some of the vehicles on the roads.
- Tape the travel postcards to cups and place them along the roadways, similar to billboards.
- Invite a child to pretend to drive somewhere. Ask him about places he and his family have traveled to recently.
- Say: "Some people travel to other cities and countries to tell people about Jesus. These people are called missionaries. Missionaries want to tell everyone the good news about Jesus."
- Comment that Saul wanted to tell people about Jesus.

**CREATE A PICTURE WEB**

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, masking tape, Jesus Pictures (Pack), paper, crayons or washable markers*

- Show children how to attach lengths of masking tape, sticky side out, across a doorway or corner of the room to build a web. (Crisscross the tape.)
- Suggest placing pictures of Jesus on the tape.
- Offer paper and crayons for children to make their own drawings about Jesus. These pictures can also be attached to the tape web.
- As preschoolers are busy, open the Bible to Acts 9. Tell children the Bible story and show them the picture on the Activity Page.
- Turn to Romans 1:16. Say: "These Bible words tell us that the good news about Jesus is for everyone."

**FEEL AND GUESS ITEMS**

*Tools: cardboard box with lid; two each of crayons, wooden blocks, Bibles, toy cups, beanbags, paper towels*

- Cut a hand-size hole in each side of the box. Place the items in the box and close the lid.
- Guide a child to reach in through the holes and feel the items. Can he feel two that are the same? Remove the items from the box. If the child is correct, he may put the items aside. If the items do not match, return them to the box.
- As the preschooler plays, ask if the game is harder because the child cannot see the items in the box. Comment: "The Bible tells about Saul not being able to see."
- Open the Bible to Acts 9 and tell the Bible story. Say: "The Book of Acts has stories about Saul and other people who told about Jesus."

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

Jesus wants people to know and love Him.

### BIBLE STORY

Saul Learned About Jesus  
Acts 9:1-20  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Romans 1:16

### MAKE TEXTURE RUBBINGS

*Tools: Bible, paper, crayons; pieces of burlap or netting, square of vinyl flooring, other textured surfaces*

- Help a child locate several textured surfaces in the room, such as flooring, wooden puzzles, or the samples you provided.
- Guide the child to make a texture rubbing by laying paper over the texture and rubbing the long side of a crayon across the paper. The design on the surface will appear.
- As the child works, talk about some people recognizing items by their texture. Say: “The Bible tells about Saul not being able to see. He probably felt things to find his way around. Later Jesus helped Saul see again.”

### PASS THE BIBLE

*Tools: Bible, ribbons placed at Acts 9 and Romans 1:16, Enhanced CD*

- Play the CD and gather a few children in a circle. Tell the children to pass the Bible to one another.
- Stop the music and ask the child holding the Bible to open it to a ribbon. Comment that the ribbon marks a page that tells something about today’s Bible story. When the Bible verse reference is located, guide the preschooler to repeat the Bible verse.
- Resume play until every preschooler gets a turn to open the Bible.

### BUILD A HOUSE

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Saul Learned About Jesus (Pack Item 9), wooden or plastic interlocking blocks*

- Encourage children to work together to build houses with blocks. Point to the Bible-times house in the Story Picture.
- As preschoolers build, say: “A man went to the house where Saul was staying. Listen to the Bible story to hear what happened next.”
- Open the Bible to Acts 9 and tell today’s Bible story. Show the Story Picture. Encourage volunteers to tell you about the Bible story.

- Comment: “Saul was so happy to learn about Jesus.” Open the Bible to Romans 1:16 and add: “The good news about Jesus is for everyone.”

## SEQUENCE WORD BLOCKS

*Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, square sticky note sheets, marker, sentence strip*

- Print words of the Bible verse on sticky notes (one word per note). Put each sticky note on a block. Print the entire Bible verse on the strip.
- Challenge preschoolers to work together to put the word blocks in correct order to form the Bible verse.
- Say the Bible verse with the children. Remark: “These words are in the Bible. Let’s say them together.”

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD as children join you in the Circle Time area.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show children the Story Picture and review the Bible story.
- Remark: “Saul wanted people to know Jesus and love Him. We learn about Jesus when we read the Bible and hear stories about Him.”
- Ask children to tell you anything they know about Jesus.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Romans 1:16 and say the Bible verse aloud several times. Prompt children to say the words with you.
- Invite children to pass the Bible around the circle. As each preschooler passes the Bible to the child next to her, she may repeat the Bible verse aloud.

### PRAY

- Pray, thanking God for the Bible that tells the good news about Jesus.

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week’s Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



## Session 10



# GOD HEARS

## 1 Samuel 1:1-20; 2:1-2

God hears us talk to Him. Not only does God hear our prayers, but He also answers them. The story of Hannah and her prayer for a son is a shining example of this truth in Scripture. Hannah's story is pretty simple. For years she had wanted a child, but for some reason unknown to her, God had not seen fit to grant that request. On a yearly visit to the tabernacle in Shiloh, Hannah once again approached the tabernacle and prayed for a son, promising God that if her request was granted, she would give the child back to God, promising that he would be a Nazirite from birth (see Numbers 6:1-21).

The priest Eli witnessed Hannah's struggling prayer and prayed with her that God would honor the request she had made. The next morning Hannah and her husband returned to their home. Within the year, Hannah did indeed give birth to a son, whom she named Samuel. Hannah's prayer of thanks in chapter 2 is a beautiful prayer that focuses on God's sovereignty and power. Following this great prayer, Hannah returned home and Samuel stayed to serve the Lord under the tutelage of Eli the priest.

Samuel lived in the tabernacle and learned from Eli the ways of the priesthood. Eli's family had significant issues and his sons were not living faithful lives to God. Though Eli knew his sons were not being faithful to the Lord he did nothing to stop it. God wants faithful leaders and followers, but Eli's family certainly did not live in faithful obedience.

God wanted a faithful leader, and soon His call to Samuel was issued. Samuel had never heard God speak, so when God called him in the middle of the night, he did not know what was happening. Once Eli understood it was God calling Samuel, Eli gave instructions which Samuel followed. God gave Samuel an intense message to share with Eli. In the morning Samuel shared God's message with Eli. Samuel continued throughout his life to share God's message to Israel. Like Samuel, we should be ready to listen to God and obey Him. God gives each of us a calling and we should obey the calling that God has placed in our path.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God hears and answers prayer.

### BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 1:1-20; 2:1-2

### BIBLE VERSE

1 John 5:14

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of 1 Samuel describes the beginning of rule by earthly kings. When Jesus came, He was the only perfect and holy King God sent to rule His people.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Remember and retell a familiar Bible story and Bible fact.
- Begin to understand how Bible verses apply to his life.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

#### ► Pack a diaper bag.

*Tools: Bible, small diaper bag, baby-care items, baby doll*

#### ► Build a church with blocks and sticks.

*Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, wide craft sticks, half sheets of colored construction paper*

#### ► Work puzzles.

*Tools: Bible, puzzles The Tent Church (LifeWay, 001276463) and Family Prayers (LifeWay, 005191559)*

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- God hears people talk to Him. God responds to His people when they pray. Prayer has always been a way we communicate with God and hear from Him.
- Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, went to Shiloh to worship God. Part of their worship would have included several offerings that you can read about in Leviticus 1–3.
- God commanded several sacrifices and offerings to be offered for the forgiveness of sin, in response to God's bountiful provision, and in celebration of a relationship in tune with God.
- When Hannah prayed, God heard Hannah's prayer and answered it. After the birth of Samuel, Elkanah returned to Shiloh to offer God a vow offering, a special type of peace offering that was issued in response to a prayer. Elkanah and Hannah's prayer had been answered, and in their thankfulness they gave God a worthy offering.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

**TEXT TRUTH**

God hears and answers prayer.

**BIBLE VERSE**

1 John 5:14

**LEADER TIP!**

Help children understand that prayer is talking to God. We can talk to God anywhere and at any time.

**LEADER TIP**

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

**HANNAH PRAYED FOR A SON****1 Samuel 1:1-20; 2:1-2**

*A man named Elkanah had a wife named Hannah. Elkanah loved Hannah very much.*

*But Hannah was sad. She did not have any children. She wanted to have a family with her husband Elkanah. Hannah was so sad, she cried and would not eat.*

*While Hannah was at the tabernacle, she found a place to pray. All alone, Hannah talked to God and cried. Hannah prayed, "God, if you will give me a son, I will be sure he knows about You. He will serve You all his life."*

*Eli, the priest, was sitting near the doorpost of the tabernacle. He saw Hannah talking, but he could not hear what she said. Eli did not know Hannah was praying to God.*

*Hannah told Eli she was sad. "I've been praying," Hannah told Eli.*

*Eli told Hannah to go home. God would answer her prayer.*

*This made Hannah feel better. She went home with her family. Before long, God answered Hannah's prayer. She and Elkanah had a baby boy, and Hannah named him Samuel.*

*Hannah thanked God for this wonderful gift. She said, "I am so happy. There is no one like You, God. You know all things. You give life."*

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14*

Paraphrase:

*We know God hears us talk to Him. 1 John 5:14*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- As children join you in the Circle Time area, encourage them to sing and clap along with you. Sing this song slowly at first, then sing quickly as preschoolers clap in rhythm.
- To the tune “Row, Row, Row Your Boat,” sing:  
*Pray, pray, pray to God,  
Pray to God each day.  
I can pray and say thank you,  
When I pray each day.*

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 1. Say: “The Bible tells about a woman named Hannah who prayed to God. Listen to the Bible story to hear what Hannah prayed about and how God answered.”
- Tell the Bible story, then show children the Story Picture. Ask: “What did Hannah pray about? How did God answer?”
- Say: “Thank You, God, for my friend who is wearing an orange shirt.” Lead children to identify the child for whom you prayed. Continue until every person has been included in a prayer.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Invite each child to take a turn opening the Bible to today’s marker placed at 1 John 5:14. Encourage the child to repeat the Bible verse aloud before closing the Bible.
- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 1 and ask: “What name did Hannah give her baby boy? Does anyone remember?” Pause for answers. Continue: “That’s right! Hannah named her son Samuel. There are two books in the Bible named after Samuel. Today’s Bible story is in the Book of 1 Samuel.”
- Show children the beginning of 1 Samuel. Add: “The Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Book of 1 Samuel is in the Old Testament.”

### PRAY

- Encourage volunteers to say thank you prayers to God.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD:  
November Bible Verse  
Markers

### PACK ITEM

- 10 Story Picture: Hannah  
Prayed for a Son

## TEXT TRUTH

God hears and answers prayer.

## BIBLE STORY

Hannah Prayed for a Son  
1 Samuel 1:1-20; 2:1-2

## BIBLE VERSE

1 John 5:14

## PACK ITEMS

10 Story Picture: Hannah Prayed for a Son  
35 Book: *God Is Good*  
33 Baby Items  
34 Baby Items Matchup

## LEADER TIP!

Cut fruit slices into small pieces for preschoolers to minimize choking hazards.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## ENJOY A SNACK



*Tools: Bible, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD), clementine or apple, paper plates, baby wipes*

- Begin peeling a clementine and encourage a child to remove the rest of the peel. As the child works, talk about favorite foods.
- Open the Bible to 1 John 5:14. Comment: “The Bible says, ‘We know God hears us talk to Him.’ When we say thank you for good food, we are talking to God. God hears us talk to Him.”
- Serve small bites of fruit to the child. Prompt him to say thank you to God for the tasty fruit.
- Help the child open the Bible to 1 Samuel 1. Comment that this is the place where we read about Hannah’s prayer.

## CARE FOR A BABY DOLL



*Tools: Bible, Book: God Is Good (Pack), 2 baby dolls, small blankets, baby wipes, doll clothes (opt.)*

- Say: “We read in the Bible about a woman called Hannah. Hannah prayed and asked God for a baby.” Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 1 and point to the story passage.
- As a child pretends to bathe or feed the doll, talk about times we can pray. Help the preschooler learn that we can talk to God at any time and anywhere.
- Picture-read the book to the preschooler; then invite him to read to the baby doll.

**PAINT WITH BABY  
LOTION**

*Tools: Bible, plastic tray, waxed paper, tape, mild baby lotion, baby wipes, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD)*

- Tape a sheet of waxed paper to a tray. Pour a small amount of lotion in the center of the paper.
- Invite a child to explore the lotion, making designs on the paper. Talk about the smell or feel of the lotion.
- Say: “The lotion helps a baby’s skin stay soft. Sometimes mothers put lotion on their babies. Perhaps Hannah put lotion on baby Samuel.”
- Turn to 1 Samuel 1 in the Bible. Remark: “Hannah wanted a baby. She prayed and asked God to give her a son. God heard Hannah’s prayer.”
- Tell the Bible story.

**MAKE A BABY TOY**

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Hannah Prayed for a Son (Pack), empty clear plastic bottles, ribbon scraps, small jingle bells, tape*

- Open the Bible to today’s Bible story passage. Show the Story Picture to a few children and encourage them to tell what they know about the Bible story.
- Suggest that a child make a baby toy. Guide the child to put colorful ribbon scraps and a few jingle bells in a bottle. Screw on the cap and tape it securely.
- Say: “Babies like to play with toys. Thank you for making a rattle toy.”
- Lead the child to shake the bottle toy. Say: “When you shake the rattle, remember that God heard Hannah when she prayed. God hears you pray, too.”

**MATCH BABY ITEMS**

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, Baby Items and Baby Items Matchup (Pack), actual baby items similar to those in the pictures*

- Guide preschoolers to work together to match pictures of baby items with the silhouette shapes. Challenge children to then place the pictures with examples of actual items.
- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 1 and tell the Bible story in your own words. Show children the picture on the Activity Page, pointing to Hannah and Eli.
- Talk about how excited Hannah must have been when God answered her prayer.
- Ask a child to hold the Bible open to 1 John 5:14. Read the Bible verse aloud.
- Help a child do the activity on the back of the Activity Page.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

God hears and answers prayer.

### BIBLE STORY

Hannah Prayed for a Son  
 1 Samuel 1:1-20; 2:1-2  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

1 John 5:14

### DECORATE A WALL HANGING

*Tools: Bible, paper, crayons or washable markers, tape*

- Invite children to draw pictures of family members or family scenes.
- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 1. Comment: “The Bible tells that Hannah wanted a family. Hannah prayed and asked God to help her.”
- Turn to 1 John 5. Lead boys and girls to repeat the Bible verse with you.
- As several children complete their pictures, tape the pictures together to form a wall hanging for the room. Say: “These pictures remind us that God hears us talk to Him. God hears us say thank you for our families.”

### GO ON A COLOR WALK

*Tools: Bible, paper in assorted colors*

- Give each child a sheet of colored paper. Help the child identify the color.
- Suggest going on a color walk, either indoors or outdoors. Tell the children to look for items that match their paper colors.
- When a child sees something that matches the color he was given, pray, thanking God for eyes to see that item or that color.
- Return to the room and open the Bible to 1 John 5:14. Say: “God heard Hannah’s prayer. We know God hears us talk to Him, too. God hears us when we say thank you to Him.”

### MAKE HEART SHAPES

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, heart-shaped cookie cutters, heavyweight paper, blunt-tipped scissors, colored pencils, crayons*

- Guide children to trace around heart-shaped cookie cutters. Assist as needed. Suggest that older preschoolers cut out heart shapes and decorate them to give to family members and friends.
- Pray: “Thank You, God, for people in our families who love us. Thank You, God, for friends.”

- Open the Bible to the Bible verse reference. Read the verse. Say: “God hears us say thank You to Him.”

## GO ON A PRETEND PICNIC

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Hannah Prayed for a Son (Pack Item 10), toy dishes, basket or grocery bag, toy food*

- Suggest that a few children pack toy dishes and food and go to another area of the room for a pretend picnic.
- While enjoying the picnic, open the Bible to 1 Samuel 1. Tell the Bible story. Show the Story Picture. Talk about how happy Hannah was that God heard and answered her prayer. Say, “We can talk to God anywhere and at any time.”

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD and invite children to walk, march, or hop around the room to Circle Time.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show children the Story Picture and ask questions to help children recall Hannah and her prayer.
- To the tune “London Bridge,” sing:  
*Hannah prayed a prayer to God,  
Prayer to God, Prayer to God.  
Hannah prayed a prayer to God,  
And God heard her.*
- Change the words to: *I can pray a prayer to God . . . And He hears me.”*

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to 1 John 5:14. Read the Bible verse aloud. Lead children to repeat the words with you, using a quiet voice.
- Repeat the words again in a loud voice, then in a whisper. Say: “No matter how loud or quiet we are, God hears us talk to Him.”

### PRAY

- Give any child who wishes an opportunity to pray. End by thanking God for each child by name.

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



Session

11



## A KING FOR THE PEOPLE

### 1 Samuel 9:1–10:25

At this point in Israel's history leadership was threatened by the fact that the nation itself no longer wanted God to be their leader. The nation of Israel wanted a human king like their neighbors. Samuel the priest had been leading the nation, but the nation was not satisfied with his leadership and wanted to be like everybody else. Sound familiar? It's often been said, "Be careful what you wish for," and Israel was about to experience the truth of that statement.

This passage of Scripture gives a great example of God's love for people. Even when they did not want God to be their leader, God loved His people and provided for them. Samuel was somewhat upset and felt that the nation had rejected him as a leader. God assured Samuel that it was not Samuel the people were rejecting but God Himself.

God sent a young man named Saul on a journey to find some donkeys that had wandered away from home. Saul eventually met Samuel. It was revealed to Samuel that Saul was the one whom God had chosen to be the king of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul and sent him on his way. Later at a public ceremony described in 1 Samuel 10:20-22, Saul was identified as the man chosen by God to lead the nation of Israel. The process used here by Samuel seems out of place since Samuel already knew whom God had chosen. The process confirmed for the people, however, that Saul was indeed chosen by God and not by people. Once the people identified Saul, they began to cheer for the king. Next Samuel laid out, in the "be careful what you wish for" address of his speech, the duties and rights of the king. Samuel then sent the people home.

Even when Israel rejected Him, God loved and provided for His people. God chose leaders to help His people. The response of the people did nothing to change God's love. Preschoolers and kids can know that when we do things that do not honor God, He still loves us and will provide for us just as He did for Israel.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God chose leaders to help His people.

### BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 9:1–10:25

### BIBLE VERSE

1 Samuel 12:24

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of 1 Samuel describes the beginning of rule by earthly kings. When Jesus came, He was the only perfect and holy King God sent to rule His people.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Begin to pronounce the names of the books of the Bible.
- Remember the names of familiar Bible people.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

#### ► Build with empty food containers and blocks.

*Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, empty food containers*

#### ► Work puzzles showing God's creation.

*Tools: Bible, wooden puzzles with nature pictures, food puzzles*

#### ► Play with transportation animals.

*Tools: Bible; toy horses, donkeys, or camels*

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- God wanted the people to follow Him as their king. God's people were set apart people, different from those around them, identified as a holy people among the nations belonging to God.
- God expects His people to be holy. Sadly, we are sinners and sinners cannot stand before a holy God. Thankfully, God had a plan to make us holy in His sight.
- The sacrificial system described in the Book of Leviticus was implemented to help the people focus on the holiness of God. The people lost sight of this over the years and clamored for a king so they could be like everyone around them.
- When Samuel prayed for the people, God instructed Samuel to give the people a king. God led Samuel to choose Saul to be the king for the people. Though Samuel was distraught, God assured Him the people had not rejected Samuel, but God.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

**TEXT TRUTH**

God chose leaders to help His people.

**BIBLE VERSE**

1 Samuel 12:24

**LEADER TIP!**

Become familiar with the Bible story before the session. Maintain eye contact with the children to keep their interest.

**LEADER TIP**

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

**SAUL BECAME KING****1 Samuel 9:1–10:25**

*Many people went to Samuel and said, “We must have a king over us.”*

*So Samuel prayed to God about this. God said, “Name (find) a king for the people.”*

*A man named Saul was missing some donkeys. He went to the city to get someone to help him find them. Saul looked down the road and saw Samuel.*

*God helped Samuel know Saul was the man God had chosen to lead the people as king. Samuel invited Saul to eat with him. Samuel said, “Tomorrow I will tell you something important. And don’t worry about your donkeys. They have been found.” Then Saul ate with Samuel.*

*The next day, Saul and Samuel walked to the edge of the city. Samuel sent Saul’s helper away. Samuel wanted to talk to only Saul.*

*Samuel poured some oil on Saul’s head and kissed him. “God has chosen you to rule over His people,” Samuel told Saul. Then Samuel gave Saul some important instructions. After seven days, Samuel said he would find Saul and tell him what to do next.*

*Right away God began to help Saul.*

*Samuel called the people together. He reminded them about the times God rescued them and helped them. Samuel said that God had been their leader, but now they would have a king.*

*Then the people saw Saul. They ran to get him.*

*Samuel said, “See the man God has chosen? There is no one like him.”*

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*Consider the great things [God] has done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24*

Paraphrase:

*Remember the good things God has done. 1 Samuel 12:24*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- Play the Enhanced CD as you walk around the room and invite children to the Circle Time area.
- Mark a circle on the floor with painter's tape or yarn. As children join you, give these directions: Walk around the inside of the circle. Put one foot inside and one foot outside the circle. Hop around the outside of the circle. Sit on the floor around the outside of the circle.
- After children are seated, comment: "You listened well. You obeyed my instructions. Now let's hear a Bible story about someone who listened to God and obeyed His instructions."

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Hold your Bible open to 1 Samuel 9. Tell or read the Bible story.
- Show the Story Picture to the children. Then lay the picture on the floor in the center of the circle.
- Ask these review questions:  
Who went looking for some donkeys? (Saul)  
Whom did God choose to be king? (Saul)  
Who listened to God and obeyed His instructions for choosing a king? (Samuel)

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Place the Bible markers for Session 10 and 11 in your Bible. Highlight the appropriate words in your Bible using a yellow highlighter or crayon.
- Pass the Bible around the circle. Lead each preschooler to open the Bible to the marker of his choice. As he touches the highlighted words on the Bible page, read the Bible verse aloud. Lead the child to repeat the words.
- Say: "The Bible verse is found in a Bible book named after Samuel."

### PRAY

- Say thank you to God for good things He has done for the children. Thank Him for His constant care and protection. After praying, picture-read the Book: *God Is Good* (Pack).

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bible
- Activity Page
- painter's tape or yarn
- Enhanced CD:  
November Bible Verse  
Markers
- yellow highlighter or crayon

### PACK ITEMS

- 11 Story Picture: Saul Became King
- 35 Book: *God Is Good*

## TEXT TRUTH

God chose leaders to help His people.

## BIBLE STORY

Saul Became King  
1 Samuel 9:1–10:25

## BIBLE VERSE

1 Samuel 12:24

## PACK ITEMS

11 Story Picture: Saul Became King  
25 Make Musical Instruments  
35 Book: *God Is Good*

## LEADER TIP!

Remember the good things God has done for you. As you feel thankful and blessed, and teach from the overflow, you will remind preschoolers of the good things God has done for them, too.



# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## TELL HOW GOD HELPS



*Tools: Bible, handled bag, children's sunglasses, Enhanced CD, plastic cup, picture of food, item of clothing, toy, crayons;*  
*Book: God Is Good (Pack)*

- Place the items in the bag.
- Ask a child: "Can you think of something God does to help people?" After the child responds, say: "Look in the bag and get an item."
- When the child examines the item, relate it to God. For example, say: "You discovered a sock. God helps us have what we need, including clothes to wear." Or comment: "You found a cup. God gives us good things to eat and drink."
- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 9. Say: "We read in the Bible that God helped Samuel." Tell the Bible story.

## DECORATE A CROWN



*Tools: Bible; solid-color paper border with one wavy edge, tape, adhesive craft gems, crayons or washable markers*

- Cut a length of border for each child to make a crown.
- As a child decorates his "crown," explain that kings often wear crowns. Relate this to today's Bible story.
- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 9 and say: "We read in the Bible about a man who became king. His name was Saul. He may have worn a crown."
- Tell the Bible story. Help children understand that God chose leaders to help His people. God chose Saul to be king.

### MAKE TAMBOURINES

*Tools: Bible, Make Musical Instruments (Pack), aluminum pie pans, dried beans or aquarium gravel, tape, Enhanced CD*

- Talk to children about celebrations such as birthdays, holidays, or family reunions. Comment: “Sometimes when people celebrate, they sing or play music.”
- Invite children to make tambourines. Help them look at the picture to see what to do. Assist as needed, but let children do as much as possible.
- Play the Enhanced CD. Guide children to shake their tambourines to the beat of the music.
- Comment: “Some people celebrated when God gave them a king. Listen to the story.” Tell the Bible story.

### SET THE TABLE

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, toy dishes, place mats, napkins, artificial flowers, plastic vase*

- Open the Bible to today’s Bible story passage. Say: “Samuel invited Saul to eat a meal with him. Does your family invite people to eat at your house?”
- Talk to the children about preparations for a meal. Encourage preschoolers to set the table for guests.
- As children choose dishes, pretend to cook, and prepare the table, talk about God helping Samuel know what to do to find the man to be king.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. Show preschoolers the picture on the Activity Page.
- Say: “Samuel told the people to remember the good things God had done for them.”

### CREATE SEE-THROUGH DRAWINGS

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Saul Became King (Pack), Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD), construction paper, crayons, cotton balls, small bowl of oil, hand wipes, plastic smocks*

- Invite a child to draw a picture. Then guide her to rub oil over the back side of her paper. As the oil seeps into the paper, the picture the child drew on the other side will become visible.
- Remark: “You used oil to make a see-through picture. Listen to the Bible story to hear how Samuel used some oil.”
- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 9 as you tell the Bible story.
- Explain that Samuel poured some oil on Saul’s head to show that God had chosen Saul to be king.
- Show the child the Story Picture and ask her to point to Saul, then Samuel.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

God chose leaders to help His people.

### BIBLE STORY

Saul Became King

1 Samuel 9:1–10:25

*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

1 Samuel 12:24

### ENJOY PLAY DOUGH

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Saul Became King (Pack Item 11), fresh play dough, lavender oil or cinnamon (opt.), craft sticks, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD)*

- If desired, knead a drop of cinnamon or lavender oil into the play dough.
- Give each child a small amount of dough and a craft stick. While he rolls and cuts, talk about the texture of the dough (and the smell, if you added a scent). Thank God for hands to feel the dough (and a nose to smell). Remark that God is good to give us senses.
- Show the preschooler the Story Picture. Comment that the story about Saul is in the Bible in the Book of 1 Samuel. Turn to 1 Samuel 9 and point to the page.

### READ BOOKS ABOUT GOD

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, Book: God Is Good (Pack Item 35); other books about God, creation, God's love and care*

- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 12:24. Read the words aloud. Ask: "What are some good things God has done for us?" Help a preschooler recall some things God does to help people. Relate this to what Samuel told the people (remember the good things God has done).
- Read a book to a child, then help him do the activity on the Activity Page.
- Thank God for loving and helping us.

### PLAY "MAY I?" GAME

*Tools: Bible*

- Play a game similar way to "Mother, May I?" Call the game "King Saul, May I?"
- With children lined up at one end of the room, name a child and give a direction, such as, "Take two giant steps." The child must ask, "King Saul, may I?" and wait for you to answer, "Yes, you may." Then the child may move. If the child forgets to ask, he must move back to the starting point.
- When everyone has reached the goal, stop and recall the Bible story.

## DRAW PICTURES

*Tools: Bible, paper, glitter crayons, scented crayons, washable markers*

- As children draw, talk about good things God has done for people. Say: “Thank You, God, for a nose to smell the pine-scented marker. God gave us bodies that can walk and jump and turn.” Or comment: “Thank You, God, for eyes to see the glitter in each colored crayon.”
- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 9. Say: “Samuel reminded the people that God had helped them. God helps us, too.” Recall some of the things God did for the people in the Bible story.
- Turn to the Bible verse passage and read the words aloud. Lead children to repeat the verse with you.

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Tell children to pretend to ride donkeys as they go to Circle Time.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask: “Does anyone remember who in the Bible story was missing some donkeys?”
- Show the Story Picture and say: “Saul went looking for his donkeys. Then he met Samuel.”
- Tell a preschooler to point to Saul.
- Hold the Bible open to 1 Samuel 9 and summarize the Bible story.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Talk about good things God has done for us (gives us families, food, clothes, friends, a church, the Bible).
- Play the Enhanced CD as children pass the Bible around the circle. Stop the music and help the child with the Bible locate the Book of 1 Samuel. (Assist as needed.)
- Repeat the Bible verse.

### PRAY

- Thank God for each child present. Thank God for His goodness.

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



## Session 12



# GOD'S CHOICE

## 1 Samuel 16:1-23

Saul had rejected God's commands as the king of Israel, and due to a series of questionable choices, God rejected Saul as king. Samuel was heartbroken and weary over the state of the nation and was confronted by God for his spirit. God asked, "How long are you going to be sad? Get up and go, I will take you to the one who will be king." God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to the family of Jesse because one of Jesse's sons would be the next king of Israel. Samuel's initial hesitancy may shine a bright light on how Saul's heart had changed toward the things of God. Samuel's worry that Saul would kill him was a clear sign that Saul no longer sought God. Saul was only worried about himself.

Samuel took with him a cow, and when he entered the city, he was met by a group of worried people. Samuel's presence in the city was misunderstood, and Samuel quickly diffused the situation by announcing his presence for a sacrifice. The city leaders and Jesse's family, specifically, were invited to the sacrifice. First, Jesse's oldest son, Eliab, came before Samuel. Obviously impressed by his great height or physical appearance, Samuel assumed this son to be the one God had chosen. In one of the best known verses from this part of Scripture, God says, "Don't look at his appearance! Man looks on the outside, but God can see what is inside." God knows our hearts and He wants us to seek Him.

As each of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel, God made it known that none of these men were His choice. This put Samuel in quite an odd spot since before him stood no more sons. But God had told Samuel the next king would come from Jesse's family. Once David was identified, Samuel waited. God chose David to be king and Samuel anointed him on the spot. The Scripture goes on to say that "the Spirit of God took control of David from that day forward." God blessed David, not only by sending His Spirit, but also by giving him an opportunity to serve in the palace alongside the king. David was known for being a man after God's own heart. What a testimony of his life, and a desire for our hearts, too.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

God chose David to be king.

### BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 16:1-23

### BIBLE VERSE

1 Samuel 16:7b

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of 1 Samuel describes the beginning of rule by earthly kings. When Jesus came, He was the only perfect and holy King God sent to rule His people.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Remember the names of familiar Bible people.
- Begin to understand how Bible verses apply to his life.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

#### ► Cover the Story Picture with sticky notes.

*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: An Important Trip for Samuel (Pack Item 12), pad of small sticky notes*

#### ► Draw on a mirror.

*Tools: Bible, nonbreakable mirror, washable markers, hand wipes*

#### ► Play with toy farm animals.

*Tools: Bible, toy farm animals, toy barn and fencing (opt.)*

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- God knows our hearts. When Saul was made king of Israel, God knew his heart and knew that Saul would eventually fall away from being a faithful follower of God. But God had a plan for Saul and His people. God sent Samuel on a special trip to find a new man with a heart for God.
- God sent Samuel to the family of Jesse who lived in Bethlehem. God knew there was a young man from Jesse's family who would be the next king of Israel. God led Samuel to anoint David the next king of Israel.
- In Leviticus 16, a special day of celebration is described. This day is called the Day of Atonement. On this special day, when the high priest sacrificed a goat, God would rid the people of their sin.
- The Day of Atonement helped cleanse the people of their sin and lead them to obey God. Saul had disobeyed God's leadership, so God found another who was, as God described, a man after God's own heart.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

**TEXT TRUTH**

God chose David to be king.

**BIBLE VERSE**

1 Samuel 16:7b

**AN IMPORTANT TRIP FOR SAMUEL****1 Samuel 16:1-23**

*God told Samuel to go to the town of Bethlehem to find someone else who would become the king after Saul.*

*“Go to the house of a man named Jesse,” God said. “One of Jesse’s sons will become king.”*

*God told Samuel to take a cow with him for a special worship. “Invite Jesse to join you. Then I will let you know what to do,” God told Samuel.*

*Samuel followed God’s instructions and did what God said.*

*Jesse and seven sons joined Samuel for the special worship. Samuel saw the oldest son, and he thought this was the man God chose to be the new king. But God said no.*

*“I know what a person thinks and feels in his heart,” God said.*

*Jesse brought another son to meet Samuel. But God said no again. Jesse brought all seven sons to meet Samuel, but God said none of them would become king.*

*“Are these all of your sons?” Samuel asked Jesse.*

*“I have one more son. Right now he is tending sheep in the field.”*

*Samuel said, “Send for him. We won’t sit down to eat until he gets here.”*

*So Jesse sent for this son. When the son arrived, God told Samuel this was the person He had chosen to become king. The son’s name was David.*

*Then Samuel put oil on David’s head and prayed. From that day on, God helped David get ready to become the new king.*

**LEADER TIP**

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*The Lord sees the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7b*

Paraphrase:

*God knows us. 1 Samuel 16:7b*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- Give specific cleanup directions as preschoolers finish their activities and join you in the Circle Time area.
- Gather eight items from around the room and put them on a tray. Give children time to study each item. Then cover the tray with a cloth.
- Without children seeing, remove one item from the tray. Uncover the tray and invite children to guess which item is missing. Continue the game until everything has been removed.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Comment: “We had eight items on the tray. You guessed which item was missing every time!” Continue: “Our Bible story today is about eight brothers. Samuel knew one of the brothers was to become a king. Listen to hear which brother God chose to be king after Saul.”
- Hold the Bible open to 1 Samuel 16 as you tell the Bible story with enthusiasm.
- After the story, show preschoolers the Story Picture. Prompt children to recall details of the Bible story as they pass the picture around the circle.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles to the children. Ask teachers in the circle to help children locate the Book of 1 Samuel.
- Say: “We have heard several Bible stories about Samuel. God heard Hannah pray for a baby. God gave her the baby Samuel. When Samuel became a man, he listened to God and obeyed Him. Samuel told Saul he would be king. Then God sent Samuel to find a new king.”
- Turn to 1 Samuel 16:7b and read the Bible verse aloud. Lead children to repeat the verse with you.
- To the tune “Three Blind Mice,” lead preschoolers to sing with you:  
*God knows us. God knows us. Yes, He does. Yes, He does.*  
*The Bible tells us that God knows us (repeat three times),*  
*Yes, God knows us.*

### PRAY

- Thank God for making us and loving us.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bibles
- classroom items, tray, cloth

### PACK ITEM

- 12 Story Picture: An Important Trip for Samuel

## TEXT TRUTH

God chose David to be king.

## BIBLE STORY

An Important Trip for Samuel

1 Samuel 16:1-23

## BIBLE VERSE

1 Samuel 16:7b

## PACK ITEMS

12 Story Picture: An Important

Trip for Samuel

36 Number Cards

## FACE PAINT RECIPE

1 tbsp. cold cream

2 tbsp. cornstarch

1 tbsp. water

liquid food color or washable  
finger paint

small bowls

- Stir together the cold cream and cornstarch. Add the water, stirring until mixture is creamy.
- Divide the mixture into small bowls. Add a different color to each bowl of cream and stir well.



# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## COUNT & CLIP



*Tools: Bible, Number Cards (Pack), clothespins or large paper clips*

- Turn to 1 Samuel 16 and tap the Bible page. Say: "A story in 1 Samuel tells about eight brothers. Can you count to 8?"
- After a child counts, hand him the Number Cards. Help him put the cards in numerical order. Point to the numbers and say their names.
- Ask: "Can you count six clothespins to clip on the number 6 card?"
- When a child counts eight pins for the number 8 card, relate this to the Bible story. Say: "Jesse had eight sons. God chose one son to become king someday."
- Turn to 1 Samuel 16 and point to David's name.

## ROLL CARS ON A MAP



*Tools: Bible, several toy vehicles, city map, Story Picture: An Important Trip for Samuel (Pack)*

- Lay the map and cars on the floor. As children begin to roll the cars, talk about maps guiding people to towns and cities. Say: "Some people use a GPS to guide them. Perhaps your family uses a map or GPS."
- While children tell about trips or experiences going places, comment that Samuel went to Bethlehem.
- Say: "God told Samuel who to choose for the next king."
- Show children the Story Picture.

## WORK PUZZLES

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, David Wooden Box Puzzles (LifeWay, 005267309), 4 sheets of construction paper*

- Put each of the four puzzles on a separate paper. Lay the Activity Page in the center of the table.
- Invite a child to choose a puzzle to work. Remark that all the puzzles are about David.
- Turn to 1 Samuel 16 and point to David's name. Say: "God loved David and knew him. God knew David loved Him and obeyed Him. God told Samuel to make David the king after Saul."
- Show children working puzzles the picture on the Activity Page. Count Jesse's sons. Remark that God chose David, the eighth son in Jesse's family.

## USE FACE PAINTS

*Tools: Bible, Allergy Sign (Enhanced CD), several colors of face paint, cotton swabs, nonbreakable mirror, hand wipes or paper towels*

- Invite a child to look at her reflection in the mirror. Ask: "Who do you see?"
- Remark that God made the preschooler and knows all about her. Turn to 1 Samuel 16:7b and add: "We read in the Bible that God sees you and God knows all about you."
- Invite the preschooler to use face paints to decorate her face. Help her safely apply paint.
- Make up a tune and sing these words:  
*God knows me, God knows me, God made me special, and God knows me.*

## SORT ITEMS BY 8s

*Tools: Bible; items to sort (8 of each—items such as crayons, cotton balls, plastic interlocking brick blocks, toy spoons); 8 containers to hold same items*

- For each group of items, choose seven identical items and one different in some way, such as seven red crayons and one yellow crayon. (This increases the challenge for older children.)
- Guide children to work together to sort the items into related groups. Help children count items as they put them in containers.
- Say: "You have filled each container with eight items. Our Bible story tells about eight brothers. Listen to hear what happened to one brother."
- Tell the Bible story.
- Remark that the Bible story is in the Book of 1 Samuel.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

God chose David to be king.

### BIBLE STORY

An Important Trip for Samuel

1 Samuel 16:1-23

*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

1 Samuel 16:7b

### MEASURE HEIGHT

*Tools: Bible, height measuring strip (put on wall), paper in various colors, scissors, tape*

- Direct a child to stand against the wall to be measured. Record his height on a piece of paper. Then cut narrow strips of paper for the child to link together to make a paper chain link. Suggest making the paper chain as long as he is tall.
- Give assistance, but let the child do as much as he can on his own.
- As the child works, open the Bible to 1 Samuel 16:7b. Remark: “This verse in the Bible says that God knows us. God knows how tall you are today. He knows how tall you will be next year, too.”

### COUNT & MOVE

*Tools: Bible*

- Lead children to follow simple directions: Snap your fingers one time. Pat your shoulders two times. Stomp your feet three times. Turn around four times. Jump five times. Nod your head six times. Wave seven times. Clap your hands eight times.
- Say: “We did eight different actions. The number 8 reminds me of a man who had eight sons. God chose one of the sons to become king.”
- Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16. Tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Lead children to clap eight times again. Mention that God knew the eight brothers. God knew David loved Him and would be a good king.

### PLAY WITH A DOLLHOUSE

*Tools: Bible; Story Picture: An Important Trip for Samuel (Pack Item 12); dollhouse, people figures, and furnishings*

- Show children the Story Picture. Ask questions about the picture to help preschoolers recall details about David and his family.
- Invite children to play with the dollhouse and figures. Talk with the children about their families. Say: “The Bible says that God knows us.

God knows each person in your family. God knew each person in David's family, too."

## BUILD THE BIBLE VERSE

*Tools: Bible, wooden blocks, index cards, marker, tape*

- Print each word of the Bible verse on a separate index card. Attach each card to a block.
- While preschoolers enjoy block building, read the Bible words on blocks as they are discovered.
- Open the Bible and show children where the Bible verse is located in the Book of 1 Samuel. Say the verse, then lead preschoolers to put the word blocks in order. Read the Bible verse aloud and remind children that God knows each of them by name.

### LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- Pass a mirror around the circle. Encourage each child to look in the mirror and name something she can do. (For example, I can blink my eyes.)

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: "You did a good job naming something you can do. The Bible tells us that God knows us. He knows what you can do. God knew what David could do, too."
- With the Bible opened to 1 Samuel 16, summarize the Bible story. Show children the Story Picture. Ask: "How many sons did

Jesse have?" (8) "What was the name of the son God chose to be king?" (David)

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Play the Enhanced CD as children pass the Bible around the circle. Stop the music and lead the group to repeat the Bible verse.
- Get the letter blocks (see activity above) and call on children to put the words of the verse in order.

### PRAY

- Pray: "Thank You, God, for knowing and loving us."

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.



# Session 13



## FRIENDS LOVE

**1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7; 20:1-42**

David's presence in the palace gave him the ability to see the king in action as well as get acquainted with others in the kingdom. One of David's fast friends became Jonathan, the king's own son. King Saul had become increasingly paranoid of attempts for his kingdom (clearly not God's representative of God's kingdom anymore). On multiple occasions Saul tried to kill David. David fled to where his friend Jonathan was and asked why Saul might be so angry with David that he wanted David dead.

Jonathan was clearly surprised by this news since his father Saul had never shared displeasure over David. Jonathan, however, vowed to help his friend know the truth. The two friends set a plan in motion to help Jonathan discover Saul's true intentions. David would wait outside the city while a monthly festival happened in Saul's courts. David would be missed, and when Saul asked about David's absence, Jonathan would give an answer. Then Jonathan would surmise from Saul's response how Saul truly felt about David.

As the events of the celebration unfolded, it became clear to Jonathan that Saul indeed intended to kill David if for no other reason than to ensure Jonathan would assume the throne upon Saul's death. Jonathan was unconcerned about his own claim to the throne, and defended his friend. With the news of Saul's desire to kill David, Jonathan left. The next morning Jonathan revealed to David that indeed he was not safe anymore. The two friends wept with one another and promised a lifetime of commitment to one another's families. When David departed, the two friends would never see each other again.

This story of friendship highlights for us several truths. Godly friendship seeks God's will above personal gain. This was Jonathan's response. He was unconcerned with his right to reign in his father's place, but he was concerned about the will of God. God gives us friends and wants us to help them obey God. Using David and Jonathan's example, remind children through your teaching that God wants friends to love and help one another.

## SESSION FOCUS

### TEXT TRUTH

Friends love and help one another.

### BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7; 20:1-42

### BIBLE VERSE

Proverbs 17:17

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of 1 Samuel describes the beginning of rule by earthly kings. When Jesus came, He was the only perfect and holy King God sent to rule His people.

### BIBLE SKILLS

- Remember the names of familiar Bible people.
- Remember and say simple Bible words, phrases, and verses with Bible references.

## ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

As preschoolers arrive, offer choices of self-guided activities that set the stage for Bible explorations.

#### ► Work puzzles about friends.

*Tools: Bible, wooden puzzles showing people working or playing together*

#### ► Blow and pop bubbles with a friend.

*Tools: Bible, bubble mixture, wands*

#### ► Play with community helper vehicles.

*Tools: Bible; community helper vehicles such as, police car, ambulance, and fire truck*

- After everyone has had an opportunity to do one or more arrival activities, direct preschoolers to Exploration Stations. (See next page.)



### EXPLORE THE BIBLE TEXT CONNECTION

- Godly friendship seeks God's will above personal gain. King Saul had lived a life that was focused solely on himself, and in no way focused on God or God's will.
- Jonathan, Saul's son, became great friends with David, the man chosen by God to be the next king of Israel. Ordinarily this may have caused problems, but Jonathan understood that God's will was more important than any desire to be king.
- God promised in Leviticus 26 that those who follow Him will be blessed, and those who do not follow Him will suffer wrath. David and Jonathan lived lives that were both faithful to God and faithful to each other. God's blessing was evident.
- After learning of Saul's anger and desire to kill David, David and Jonathan separated from one another and likely never saw each other again. David remained faithful to his friend and to God, and eventually David became king of Israel.

### FAMILY AT HOME

Print this week's devotional page (Enhanced CD) to give to families.

**TEXT TRUTH**

Friends love and help one another.

**BIBLE VERSE**

Proverbs 17:17

**LEADER TIP!**

Using children's names through the session helps preschoolers feel recognized and valued.

**LEADER TIP**

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the Bible verse you want to use with your group.

# JONATHAN HELPED DAVID

**1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7; 20:1-42**

*Jonathan and David were friends. Jonathan loved David as much as he loved himself. Jonathan gave his special robe and other gifts to David to show his love.*

*One day Jonathan's father, King Saul, became upset with David, and he gave orders that put David in danger.*

*Jonathan learned about this and warned David to be careful and hide.*

*Jonathan said to David, "I will do anything you want me to do for you. You are my friend and I care about you."*

*Then Jonathan and David made a plan. David would hide by a big stone out in a field where Jonathan usually practiced shooting arrows. Jonathan would go to the field. If Jonathan said to the young boy with him, "The arrows are on this side of you. Bring them here," David would know it was safe for him to return to the king's palace. But if Jonathan said, "The arrows are beyond you," then David would know it was not safe and he would have to leave.*

*Jonathan went to the field. Then David heard his friend shout, "The arrow went far beyond you, didn't it? Hurry up! Run fast! Don't stop!"*

*Then David knew he had to leave. David came out of his hiding place to see Jonathan. David bowed and thanked Jonathan for helping him. Both David and Jonathan cried and cried. Finally Jonathan said, "Go in peace, David. We've promised to be friends. We will be friends to each other's families forever."*

**BIBLE VERSE**

From the Bible text:

*A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17*

Paraphrase:

*A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17*



## CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

### GATHER

- Place a chair in the center of the Circle Time area. As children arrive, give directions such as: “Everyone wearing red, come into the circle and walk around the chair. Then you may go to your seat.”
- Give other directions so all children are included.

### HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Comment: “Everyone listened to my directions and followed them. Let’s listen now to a Bible story about someone who listened to his friend’s directions and followed them.”
- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 18. Tell the Bible story with feeling. Show the Story Picture afterwards. Ask questions about the picture to help preschoolers remember details of the Bible story.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 18 again. Say: “We read about David and Jonathan in the Book of 1 Samuel. First Samuel is in the front part of the Bible, the Old Testament. Our Bible verse for today is also in the Old Testament, in the Book of Proverbs.”
- Continue: “Let’s find and read the Bible verse.” Invite a child to open the Bible to the Bible marker at Proverbs 17:17 and repeat the Bible verse with you. Tell the child to hand the closed Bible to a friend. Repeat until all preschoolers get a turn to say the verse.
- Give each child one half of a Friends Puzzle Card. Direct friends to walk around the circle and match pictures to complete the puzzles.

### PRAY

- Thank God for friends who love and help one another.

### OPTIONS

1. Arrival Activities
2. Circle Time
3. Exploration Stations

### OR

1. Arrival Activities
2. Exploration Stations
3. Circle Time

### TOOLS

- Bible
- Enhanced CD:  
November Bible Verse  
Markers

### PACK ITEMS

- 13 Story Picture: Jonathan Helped David
- 38 Friends Puzzle Cards

## TEXT TRUTH

Friends love and help one another.

## BIBLE STORY

Jonathan Helped David  
1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7;  
20:1-42

## BIBLE VERSE

Proverbs 17:17

## PACK ITEMS

13 Story Picture: Jonathan Helped David  
37 Friends Poster  
38 Friends Puzzle Cards  
39 Bible Book Names

## LEADER TIP!

Catch a child being good! Commend a preschooler when you notice him sharing a toy or helping a friend.

# EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers.

## TOSS BEANBAGS AT A TARGET



*Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Jonathan Helped David (Pack), beanbags, plain vinyl place mat, marker, masking tape*

- Draw a target on the place mat and lay it on the floor. Make a tape line about 3 feet behind the target.
- Give a preschooler a beanbag to toss on the target. Tell him to stand on the tape line, then toss. Applaud his effort.
- Relate this to the Bible story. Remark that Jonathan shot his arrow in the field, probably toward a target.
- Show the Story Picture to the preschooler. Say: "Jonathan loved his friend David."
- Turn to Proverbs 17:17 and read the verse.

## ROLL CARS ON A RAMP



*Tools: Bible, wide board, toy vehicles*

- Lay the Bible near the board. Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 18 and put a toy vehicle on the page.
- Suggest that a child roll a toy car down the ramp to a friend waiting at the end. After all the cars are at the bottom, suggest that the friends exchange places.
- Say: "You are taking turns and being kind to one another. That is something friends do. Jonathan was kind to his friend David."
- Turn to Proverbs 17:17 and touch the words as you say the Bible verse. Lead the children to say the verse with you.

## MAKE FRIENDSHIP BANDS

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, pony beads, chenille stems*

- Show a child the picture on the Activity Page. Tell about Jonathan giving gifts to his friend David.
- Invite the child to make a bracelet for a friend.
- Show the child how to twist the end of a chenille stem around the first bead as an anchor. He can then add more beads.
- Twist the other end of the stem around the anchor bead to form a wristband.
- While the child is busy, talk about friends. Ask the preschooler for whom he is making the band. Name some of your friends.
- Show the picture on the Activity Page and comment that Jonathan and David were lifelong friends.

## WORK FRIENDS PUZZLES

*Tools: Bible, puzzle My Friends (LifeWay, 005266977), Friends Poster and Friends Puzzle Cards (Pack)*

- Show the puzzle cards to a child. Say: "Look for pieces that go together."
- When the pictures are matched, tell the child to place the puzzle cards on the poster in the frames.
- Another child may enjoy working the wooden puzzle.
- Relate both activities to the emphasis on friends loving one another. Thank God for friends.
- Recall the special friendship of Jonathan and David as you open the Bible to 1 Samuel 18 and summarize the Bible story.

## SEARCH FOR BIBLE WORDS

*Tools: several Bibles, Bible Book Names (Pack); cards with printed words (David, friend, love); pad of sticky note flags, 2 magnifying glasses*

- Put the word cards and Bible Book Names with the magnifying glasses.
- Show a child a card. Read the printed word. Say: "This word is in the Bible. Can you find it? I will help you."
- Guide the child to turn Bible pages to find the word. He can flag the page with a sticky note.
- Relate the word to today's emphasis on friendship and love or to recent Bible book studies.
- Mention that many places in the Bible tell about friends and how they are to treat one another.
- Turn to Proverbs 17:17 and point to the words. Lead the child to say the verse.

## NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

### OPTIONS

1. Continue activities from the first hour. (Kids learn through repetition.)
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new activities.

### TEXT TRUTH

Friends love and help one another.

### BIBLE STORY

Jonathan Helped David  
1 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-7;  
20:1-42  
*The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.*

### BIBLE VERSE

Proverbs 17:17

### PLAY “WHAT’S MISSING?”

*Tools: Bible, tray, towel; small items from room (crayon, puzzle piece, scissors, small block, toy dish, toy car, small book)*

- Place the items on the tray and show them to children. Then cover the items with the towel.
- Direct children to look up while you take away one item.
- Ask friends to help each other identify what is missing. When the item is named, ask the group if everyone agrees with the answer. Then return the item to the tray and play again.
- Thank children for helping each other play the game. Thank them for helping their friends. Comment: “Jonathan helped his friend David.”

### FOLLOW A PAPER PATH

*Tools: Bible, sheets of paper*

- Suggest that a child help a friend cross the room. Direct the first preschooler to lay sheets of paper as stepping stones for his friend to follow to cross the room.
- When the friend reaches the destination, direct the children to exchange roles. Thank them for cooperating and being kind to each other.
- Comment: “Jonathan helped his friend David know what to do. Jonathan loved David and helped him.”

### BOUNCE A BALL

*Tools: Bible, Activity Page, large plastic ball*

- Invite two or three children to stand several feet apart. Guide them to bounce the ball to each other.
- While children play, make up a tune to sing these words:  
*Bounce, bounce, friends can bounce the ball.*  
*Bounce, bounce, friends can bounce the ball.*
- After a while lead children to be seated. Show them the picture on the

Activity Page and recall the friendship between Jonathan and David.

- Say: “The Bible reminds us that friends love and help one another.”

## MAKE A STICKER PICTURE

*Tools: Bible; paper; stickers showing children at play, shapes, flowers, hearts, so on; Story Picture: Jonathan Helped David (Pack Item 13); book about friends*

- Give a child a paper and invite him to choose stickers to put on his paper. Ask the child if you may write the Bible verse on his paper.
- While the child creates his picture, talk about friends and things they do together. Picture-read the book about friends.
- Say: “Our Bible story is about two friends. Do you remember their names?” Recall the Bible story and show the child the Story Picture.

## LEADER TIP!

Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

## CIRCLE TIME

### GATHER

- As children move to Circle Time, suggest they march, laugh, hop, smile, crawl, then frown.

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “You showed different feelings as you moved to Circle Time. David and Jonathan were happy to be friends, but sad when they had to say good-bye.”
- Open a Bible to 1 Samuel 18 and tell the Bible story. Show children the Story Picture. Help preschoolers identify David and Jonathan.

### PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Show children the location of Proverbs 17:17 in your Bible. Read the Bible verse aloud and prompt children to repeat the words.
- Lead the group to say the Bible verse with a loud voice. Repeat the words in a softer voice. Finally whisper: “A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17.”

### PRAY

- Encourage volunteers to say thank you to God for their friends.
- Thank God for the Bible and its true stories.

### DON'T FORGET!

Give every child this week's Activity Page and Preschool Family Card.



Look for printable Next Hour helps on the Preschool Enhanced CD.

# COMING NEXT QUARTER

## WINTER 2017-18

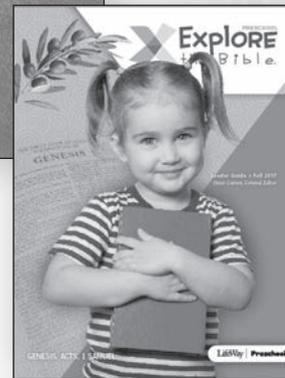
DATE	SESSION TITLE	BIBLE STORY PASSAGE	BIBLE VERSE
Dec. 3	Jesus Has Come	Matthew 3:1-12	John 1:29
Dec. 10	Follow Me	Matthew 4:18-25; 10:2-4	Matthew 4:19
Dec. 17	Jesus, the Teacher	Matthew 4:23-25; 5:2,13-16,38-48; 7:28-29	Matthew 6:33
Dec. 24	The Christmas Story	Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:11
Dec. 31	Searching for Jesus	Matthew 2:1-12	Matthew 2:2
Jan. 7	Letters About Jesus	1 & 2 Peter	1 Peter 1:22b
Jan. 14	God's Care	Acts 12:3-17	1 Peter 5:7
Jan. 21	The Story of Jesus	Luke 4:16-28	2 Peter 3:18a
Jan. 28	Love and Learn Together	Acts 15:1-35	Jude 1:20-21
Feb. 4	God Is With Us	Joshua 3:1-4:24	Joshua 1:9b
Feb. 11	God Leads	Joshua 6:1-21	Psalms 28:8
Feb. 18	God Answers Prayer	Joshua 10:1-14	Psalms 62:8
Feb. 25	Love and Obey	Joshua 23:1-3; 24:1,14-28	Joshua 24:24

# TOOLS FOR DIGGING DEEP!

## PRESCHOOL TOOL KIT

The resources you need to lead one class:

- One Preschool Leader Guide
- One set of Preschool Activity Pages
- One Preschool Leader Pack
- One Enhanced CD
- One set of Preschool Family Cards



## LEADER GUIDE

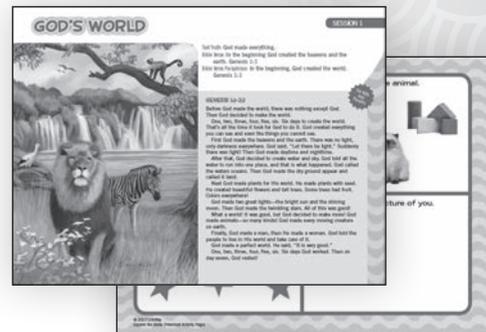
Help preschoolers dig into the Bible.

- Leader-friendly session plans for small- and large-group learning
- Sensory approach to exploring the Bible for pre-readers
- Exploration activities to encourage preschoolers to dig, explore, and discover Bible truths

## ACTIVITY PAGES

Engage preschoolers in class and continue learning at home.

- Weekly Bible story pages with colorful illustrations
- Fun-to-do Bible-focused activities related to Bible content and application



## PRESCHOOL FAMILY CARDS

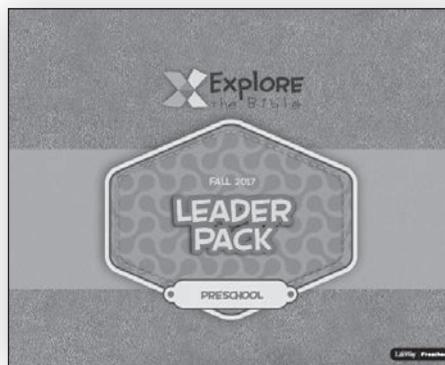
Pocket-size weekly cards feature Bible story picture and simple Bible explorations that build and strengthen Bible skills.



## LEADER PACK

Filled with leader-friendly resources that make teaching easy.

- Teacher helps
- Visual aids
- Story pictures
- Posters
- Games
- Bible memory tools



## ENHANCED CD

- Bible-related songs
- Music for movement and rest time
- Printable teacher tools and session helps

## PRESCHOOL TOOL KIT WITH WORSHIP

- Second-hour option
- Kid-friendly worship experience that reinforces every weekly session



For free online training on how to lead a group, visit [ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible](http://ministrygrid.com/web/explorethebible).

# THE GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



**GOD RULES.** The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to recite Genesis 1:1 from memory or read it from his Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 and Colossians 1:16-17.



**WE SINNED.** Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God (Romans 3:23). The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God’s punishment of death (Romans 6:23).



**GOD PROVIDED.** Read John 3:16 aloud. God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It’s something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read Ephesians 2:8-9.



**JESUS GIVES.** Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God’s family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**WE RESPOND.** We can respond to Jesus. “The ABCs of Becoming a Christian” is a simple tool that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to the gift Jesus offers.

### ADMIT

Admit to God that you are a sinner. The first people God created chose to sin and disobey God. Ever since then, all people have chosen to sin and disobey (Romans 3:23). Tell God you messed up and you are sorry for doing your own thing and turning away from Him through your thoughts, words, and actions. Repent, turn away from your sin. (Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9) *Repent* doesn’t just mean turning from doing bad things to doing good things. It means turning from sin and even from your own good works and turning to Jesus, trusting only in Him to save you.

### BELIEVE

Believe that Jesus is God’s Son and receive God’s gift of forgiveness from sin. You must believe that only Jesus can save you and you cannot save yourself from your sin problem—not even by praying to God, going to church, or reading your Bible. Your faith or your trust is only in Jesus and what He did for you through His life, death, and resurrection. (Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)

### CONFESS

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Tell God and tell others what you believe. If Jesus is your Savior, you are trusting only in Him to save you. Jesus is also Lord, which means He is in charge and calling the shots in your life. You can start following Him and doing what He says in the Bible. You are born again into a new life and look forward to being with God forever. (Romans 10:9-10,13)

POINT YOUR HEART TO

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